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The Playground



FEBRUARY
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The Playground

Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York
for the
Playground and Recreation Association of
America
315 Fourth Avenue, New York City

Membership

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a member
of the Association for the ensuing year

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Association of America

Another testimony to the supremacy of the Victrola XXV—for out of doors!

MANY PEOPLE WITNESS MAY DAY PROGRAM

At least 750 persons attended for third and fifth places. Ed- the May day exercises by the ward Williamson, of Central, won school children of the city at the this race: Sheridan, Pyles, came

May Day Exercises

Grafton, West Virginia
Public Schools
Using the

Victrola XXV



announcement of the day was in only a few seconds more time a print.

At the beginning of the program and while the children were being assembled, the large crowd was entertained by several victrola selections reproduced by a large concert machine loaned by the W. F. Frederick Piano company store here. The big instrument sent the notes sounding loudly over a large area and the several selections were heard by everyone within the boundaries of the Legion field. The music was also kept up while the various exercises were being performed.

the racing contests the children became exhausted while performing in the hot sun, and one lady in the crowd was temporarily overcome by the heat, but outside these mishaps there was nothing to mar the success of the event. Mr. Lewis, the high school authorities and all others who par-

We could not reproduce this photograph large enough to give an adequate idea of the crowd gathered at Grafton's May Day Fete; yet a single Victrola XXV (scarcely visible in the picture) furnished the music for hundreds of children all over the large field to dance and perform their exercises!



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The Standard
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Educational
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Victor Talking Machine Co., Camden, New Jersey

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LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HEALTH, LOVE AND BEAUTY

On March 17, the Camp Fire Girls will celebrate their eleventh birthday with a nation-wide Council Fire, attended by over three hundred thousand girls. In keeping with the spirit of service which Camp Fire seeks to typify, the birthday fund raised this year will be used to provide summer camps for blind and crippled Camp Fire Girls.

The seven crafts recognized by Camp Fire Girls are handicraft, health-craft, camp-craft, nature-craft, business-craft, home-craft, patriotism and citizenship. The training in these crafts is directed toward developing the girl into a vigorous, strong, healthy woman, fitted to take her place in the community. It is direct training for citizenship.

The Playground

Vol. XVI No. 11

FEBRUARY, 1923

The World at Play

Novel Insignia in Oakland.—J. B. Nash, Superintendent of Recreation in Oakland, California, sends a suggestion for an inexpensive cap and eye shield which was very effectively used at a recent Play Day at Oakland. The shield was made of stiff paper cut in an irregular oval shape to cover the forehead, with holes in either side for strings to be tied in the back. In the center was pasted a piece of cadet blue paper, cut in the shape of a pine tree, with a square of orange paper in the middle of it. A necktie of blue crepe paper gave an added touch of color.

"Of course, they are not designed and made by an interior decorator," writes Mr. Nash, "but the effect was good and it lent considerable enthusiasm to a large group." The shields were used by one school with approximately 110 participants at a cost of forty cents.

Another Saloon Substitute.—On November 4, Passaic's new recreation hall had its official opening. Formerly the dance hall of a saloon in a congested foreign district, its reputation was far from savory. Its conversion by the Recreation Commission into a recreation hall marks the beginning of a new era. Basketball games—and twenty teams have already been lined up—will be substituted for undesirable dancing and wholesome recreational and social activities will take the place of cheap amusements.

On the opening evening, games and dancing made up the evening's program and some of Passaic's most dignified citizens, wearing paper caps, laid aside their dignity as they danced the Virginia Reel and played games of all kinds.

Brockton Likes Volley Ball.—A round-robin volley ball tournament was a feature of the fair in Brockton, Massachusetts, last fall.

At the invitation of the Brockton Young Men's Christian Association, teams from the neighboring cities of Worcester, Lynn, Fall River, and Providence sent their teams to compete for a handsome loving cup. Twelve games were played while at least 5000 people looked on. The players enjoyed the fun of trying out their skill against their neighbors so well that they have asked the fair committee to have another tournament next year.

Brockton has also decided that shoe making and volley ball go well together. Twelve of the city's shoe industries competed recently for the industrial volley ball championship.

Johnstown Makes a Swimming Record.—For eighteen days last summer the Municipal Recreation Commission, through Leo J. Buettner, Secretary, arranged for free swimming lessons to be given the children attending the pool. Competent guards and instructors were present to instruct the children. The total attendance of children during this period of eighteen days was 4,577. This represents only a small percentage of the attendance, as adults made even a greater use of the pool than the children.

First Performance in Yakima.—Alice Brown's *Joint Owners in Spain* produced last November under the auspices of Yakima Community Service by the Yakima Dramatic Club brought an appreciative audience from all sections of the little Pacific Coast City. The club presented a bill of three one-act plays in the high school auditorium. It is the first in a series planned for the entire season of 1923.

Athletic Badge Tests for Girls Revised.—Ever since the publication of the athletic badge tests for girls, suggestions have been reaching the Playground and Recreation

Association regarding possible changes which might be made to improve the tests. So great was the interest in the tests that early in 1922 a committee of which Lee F. Hanmer of the Russell Sage Foundation served as chairman, began work on the revision. This committee, consisting in addition to Mr. Hanmer of R. K. Hanson, Dr. A. K. Aldinger, Dr. William Burdick, Daniel Chase, Clark W. Hetherington, Miss Bird Larson, Miss Emily O'Keefe, and Miss Janet B. Walter, carefully considered all the suggestions which had been made and on the basis of these, and in the light of new knowledge gained on the subject of activities for girls, agreed on a set of tests which are elastic and which allow for a choice of events. This element of elasticity will undoubtedly add greatly to the popularity of the tests and to their wider use.

We are relying on readers of *THE PLAYGROUND* to help in giving publicity to the tests. Will you not write us for a copy of them and urge others who may be interested to send for them?

Parent-Teacher Association Maintains Playgrounds.—The children of Alhambra, California, owe their summer playgrounds to the efforts of the Alhambra Federated Parent-Teacher Association, which has a special recreation chairman. Apparatus for the playgrounds is furnished by the Association, and it maintains a bus which carries the children to and from each school free of charge. Raffia and reed for basketry classes are furnished by the Board of Education. The salaries of play leaders are paid by the city.

A New Federation of Community Centers.—"The People's Institute, United Neighborhood Guild of Brooklyn, has reached another goal of cooperation," states the December issue of *Better Times*, "by the recent creation of the Brooklyn Federation of Community Centers." Eleven centers have united to form the Federation which will consider matters common to all the Centers at its regular quarterly meetings and special meetings, bringing the committee together as often as once a month.

Each Community Center elects five delegates with voting power. The Board of Directors of the People's Institute, United Neighborhood Guild, represents the parent organiza-

tion. No specific dues are levied; the budget of the Federation covering the activities of the year will be equally divided among the Centers irrespective of membership enrollment.

National Junior Sport League Guide Book.—The National Junior Sport League, with headquarters at 1226 Forest Street, New Haven, has issued a guide book containing suggestive material on activities for boys and girls. Swimming, boating, fishing, cycling, hiking, skating, games and riflery are made the subjects of tests for which bronze, silver, and gold seals are awarded.

Gifts for Children's Book Shelves.—The American Library Association, at the request of the Library Commission of the Boy Scouts of America, will prepare for publication in 1923 a recommended list of children's books for the home library. A preliminary selection of eighty-five titles has been issued, prepared by a committee representing children's librarians. This list may be secured from the American Library Association, 78 East Washington Street, Chicago.

A Square Deal for the Under-Privileged Child—a Future Citizen.—This is the slogan adopted by the Kiwanis Club International which, through its committee on public affairs, has prepared a pamphlet suggesting to local groups channels of service and methods to be used in helping under-privileged children. Many of the suggestions offered are along the line of the provision of recreational opportunities and facilities, such as outings, picnics, camps, promotion of camps and sports, music, moving pictures, art exhibits, and the organization of social centers and clubs.

In the pamphlet which has been prepared, local groups are very wisely urged to find out, before taking action, what is already being done, what the organized resources of the community are for getting the proposed action put into effect, and what help may be secured from local and national clubs.

Municipal recreation departments and private organizations in the leisure time field should find a staunch ally in the Kiwanis clubs who, through the adoption of this common field of public activity, are building for citizenship.

For Better Films.—The National Committee for Better Films affiliated with the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, campaigns for membership, believing that a marked influence can be exerted on the character of local motion picture entertainments by community cooperation in support of good films. "Every ticket dropped into the box at the entrance of a motion picture theatre is virtually a ballot—a ballot that reaches not only the exhibitor but the producer," writes the secretary of the committee. In other words, the number of tickets sold indicates to the exhibitor and producer the type of films the public enjoys most. This is not always a true indicator as oftentimes the more educated people would wish to attend a picture show if they might be assured that they would see a good film rather than the poorer type of film to which they have so often been treated. Through membership in the National Committee for Better Films one may learn of the better pictures as they are produced, may read the reviews of them published in "Exceptional Photoplays" furnished to members, and may also organize community support for the films by developing an energetic nucleus of members of the National Committee for Better Films to arouse interest in the finer productions, to extend a knowledge of the National Committee's services and cooperate with the exhibitor in building up audiences for family and young people's entertainments.

Are You Interested in Moving Pictures?—All interested in the use of motion pictures are invited to attend the Fourteenth Annual Luncheon of the National Board of Review which is to be held on February 3 at the Waldorf. The subject of the luncheon will be "The Future of the Exceptional Photo Play." Further information may be secured by writing Mr. W. D. McGuire, Jr., Executive Secretary of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, 70 Fifth Avenue.

Recreation and Parent-Teacher Associations.—The January, 1923, number of *The Child Welfare Magazine*, the official organ of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, published monthly at Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, contains among other helpful articles Home Parties, by Mrs. B. F. Lang-

worthy, Play, by Mrs. George H. Moore, and Swings for the Swingless with suggestions issued by Community Service for making swings.

Many Men, Many Minds.—The pictures taken at the Recreation Congress of Mr. Lee and Mr. Kirby playing leapfrog have aroused much comment from many sources—but who could foretell the following interpretation, taken from the South Bend, Indiana, News Times, November 4, 1922: "Play and stay young.—That's the slogan of Gustavus Kirby, jumping New York Art connoisseur, and Joseph Lee of Boston, Mass., who pulled off a few athletic stunts on the Boardwalk at Atlantic City during the National Recreation Congress recently. But you can't play unless you feel like it. And you can't feel like it if troubled with rheumatic pains, as so many people are when they get along in years. Landon's Prescription 1903, which is now offered to the public at \$1, will give lasting benefits and instantly relieve pain. It is for sale in Mishawaka at the Red Cross Pharmacy, and in South Bend at the Frumas Drug stores, cor. Michigan and Wayne Sts., cor. Michigan and Washington, and Main and Colfax."

The Badge Tests.—The physical efficiency tests worked out over a period of years by prominent leaders in physical education and playground work in America and adopted by the Playground and Recreation Association of America as the standard tests are having an increasingly wide use throughout the country.

Ten states include in their physical education syllabi descriptions of the athletic badge tests. These states are California, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia.

Two other states have, through their state departments of education, asked permission to make general use of the badge test material and such permission has, of course, been granted. The Health Crusaders, the Girl Reserves of the Young Women's Christian Association, the Camp Fire girls and other organizations are also making use of these tests.

Only a few days ago the Kauai Public School Athletic League of Hawaii purchased three hundred copies each of the boys' and girls' test pamphlets. Through the Children's Bureau at

Washington frequent requests are received for information about the badge tests from local leaders wishing to use them.

Not in Sunday Schools.—The bulletin of the League of Women Voters of New York City for November 10, 1922, reports that according to an investigation made under the auspices of the International Sunday School Council of Religious Education, 27,000,000 American children are not enrolled in any Sunday School or cradle roll department and receive no formal or systematic religious instruction and that 8,000,000 American children less than ten years of age grow up in non-church homes. It is estimated that two out of every three Protestant children receive no formal religious instruction and that seven out of every ten children are not reached by the church.

If these figures be true, it shows the very great importance of character building through the municipal playground and the recreation center.

Boys Miss Play, So Return to Institution after Escape.—Three boys detained by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children escaped on Saturday from the new Heckscher Foundation Building at 104th Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City, but after a day of freedom returned because they thought the play facilities at the home were better than any they could find outside. This is the first time in the history of the society that detained boys had ever returned voluntarily after they had escaped.

All the boys are about 14 years old. William was detained on charge of incorrigibility and Cartino and his cousin, Mariano, are charged with being boy burglars. They escaped by running over the roofs.

Building for Citizenship.—The Secretary of War in a public address at the Manpower Conference has stated principles almost identical with the program of Community Service during the last few years. It is significant, however, that the War Department should consider these principles of such fundamental importance as to call a special conference of leading men and women throughout the country to devise ways and means of promoting citizenship and also securing greater physical

fitness. Out of the Washington Manpower Conference ought to come increased power for physical education legislation and for the entire Community Service program.

Juvenile Delinquency.—When the question came up in Passaic, New Jersey, of an increased appropriation for the Recreation Commission, letters were presented from a number of police justices commending recreation as an important part of the municipal program. Judge Costello is reported to have said that since the opening of the recreation hall by the Recreation Commission, the juvenile court has been practically dispensed with.

The Faculty Loses the Ball.—There is much food for thought in Professor Joseph K. Hart's article in the *Survey Graphic* for December—*The Faculty Loses the Ball*. "What is the real significance of the building of costly stadiums on college campuses? To what is it leading? Is not college football more commercial than educational? Are we developing mob minds through these great student crowds?" These are some of the questions which Dr. Hart raises in his article.

Still Something to Do.—Thomas A. Edison is reported recently to have bemoaned the seeming likelihood that before many years electricity would be doing everybody's work, leaving nothing for men and women to do but sit down and see the wheels go round. The *New York World* in comment suggests that labor-saving devices, whether electric or otherwise, will lift from men of the world the burden of routine work and enable them to have more time for the tasks of culture. Men and women will then no longer be too busy to think. In that way, through paths of usefulness, leisure time may light the course to a greater human equality.

The Cost.—Prisons, reformatories, jails, and other correctional institutions cost the State of New York more than \$6,000,000 last year according to "Better Times."

Again, the Iron Man.—Professor John M. Clarke, an associate in the School of Political Economy at Chicago University, points out that humanity is suffering in the grasp of forces beyond its control and of purposes not its own. "Our supremacy, our freedom of will and our

control of our own destiny are threatened. We are in the hands of a wonderful race of machines. They are tireless and accurate. They have superseded the human mind in many mental operations. Man trusts the adding machine instead of his own calculation. When man wants to safeguard funds so that even he cannot get at them until the appointed time, he hands his discretion over to a time clock. Entire towns rise, eat, go to work, rest, toil and sleep again at the bidding of impersonal factory whistles. Signal lights synchronized from a central station determine city traffic. Even restaurants have become automatic. Ugly flats and barrens reaching from South Chicago to Gary are no places in which free men would choose to live, but one hundred thousand people do live at Gary because the blast furnaces are there. The machines have reared cities after their own needs. The machines have either out-manoeuvred or outwitted us. Without their continued help, a large part of the great population of Europe would starve. Mankind as a whole was never a party to the bargain, for our economic life had no central government in power to enter into such negotiations. The machines dealt with individuals and conquered the race piecemeal. The minds of men are captivated with the machine idea. Engineers, official interpreters of the will of machines to humanity, advise us to rearrange our hours of business so that the car lines can handle more people with less equipment.

"We admit the machines are superior. If machines once find that they can subject man in other respects, there is no telling to what lengths of fanaticism they might go without a thought but that it was all for the glory of the god of continuous utilization."

More Leisure Helps Workingmen.—Will more leisure make the workingman better off? According to the engineers who after two years of effort have just completed a national investigation of the problem of the twelve-hour day, it will. Furthermore, they say that not only the employe but the employer will benefit.

Dr. H. E. Howe of the National Research Council, Chairman of the Committee on Work-Periods in Continuous Industry of the Engineering Societies, said:

"I am sure the report which has been made on the twelve-hour shift in American industry

under the auspices of the Federated American Engineering Societies will prove an unusual and valuable document for several reasons. It will be news to many people that there are still so many industries in which the long shift is in vogue, and the report contains suggestions which ought to lead to earnest experiments in the near future.

"The references made to the value of leisure ought to start many managers thinking along lines new to them, and give rise to considerations which may break down some of the prejudices against a change in the length of shift. It involves something of the spirit of service, for in many cases steps will have to be taken to teach labor the real value of leisure and the best ways of employing it.

"That labor can earn something in leisure hours by doing for itself many odd tasks which are ordinarily paid for has not occurred to many, while the thought that the net gain which results from leisure properly expended is very well worth while to the employer will also be new."

New Superintendent for Fort Worth.—W. C. Batchelor who, since April, 1920, has been Superintendent of Recreation at Utica, New York, has resigned to accept a similar position at Fort Worth, Texas, where recent legislation, as described in the December *PLAYGROUND*, will make possible a broad community program.

Miss Esthyn Fitzgerald who has been Mr. Batchelor's assistant in the work will serve for the present, as acting superintendent in Utica.

A Comprehensive State Plan for the Parks of New York.—THE *PLAYGROUND* has published a number of articles regarding the remarkable recreation developments in connection with the Palisades Inter-state Park, and many of our readers are familiar with this splendid project. A committee of the New York State Association, including representatives of practically all the state parks, has recently made a report advocating a comprehensive program of state park development. The report, in pointing out the need for extending the forest reserves and for adding to the present area and recreational facilities of the Palisade Inter-state Park which are already overcrowded, advocates a total bond issue of \$15,000,000. This amount, it is estimated, will provide for those sections of

the state neglected in previous bond issues and will make possible the beginning of a unified state park plan. It is recommended that a bill be submitted at the 1923 session of the legislature, the proposed law to be submitted to the people at the general election of 1923.

New Zealand Reports Progress.—Mrs. Nellie Ferner, president of the Auckland, New Zealand Play Association, writes that the Association has recently been enlarged and that the work promises rapid development. Plans are on foot for making use of the Athletic Badge Tests of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

Playgrounds in Poland.—American Red Cross workers in Poland are finding that children of this war-torn country need play desperately. The director of the Junior Red Cross, in a letter to the Playground and Recreation Association of America recently writes that a playground has just been opened in Warsaw, that another is to be opened shortly in Dabrowa, and in several other Polish cities and towns.

One Exciting Night.—George Siraco, chairman of the Italian branch of the Associate Committees, recently petitioned the mayor of New York to set aside a day in the fall when all citizens should "give themselves up to gaiety, lose the burdens of their everyday worries, release the spirit of holiday making, parade, sing, cheer and play with that radiant abandon which renews life, dispels drabness, and bespeaks the vitality of New York City.

"We do not seek the ponderous formality of fete, carnival or festival. We ask simply for a day when we can all play such as the life-loving Italians have."

It is understood that a petition to this general effect was signed by tens of thousands of Italians in New York City.

New Playground Property at South Orange.—Village authorities of South Orange have recently purchased additional property for playground purposes which will double the size of Cameron Field, the beautiful playground which has been enjoyed by the children of the village for a number of years. The price paid for the property was \$15,000 and \$5,000 has

been appropriated by the village trustees for equipment of the new ground.

Another Playground for Springfield.—Nathan D. Bill of Springfield, Massachusetts has added to his previous gifts of land for playground purposes a fourth ground of six acres to be known as the Ruth Elizabeth Bill Playground in honor of his wife. This ground, located in a section of the city where a playground is urgently needed, will have two baseball diamonds, a skating rink, tennis courts, a wading pool, and a section for children's playground. A part of the expense of laying out and equipping the playground will be borne by Mr. Bill who has offered \$2,000 for the purpose.

Mr. Bill's gifts to the city include three other playgrounds—the first, a ground of six acres in the south end of the city known as the Emerson Wight playground in honor of Mrs. Bill's father; the second, a four-acre plot in the north end given as a memorial to Mrs. Bill's mother; the third gift, a large piece of property presented on the death of Mrs. Bill's father, making possible a park, a playground, and an arboretum.

The Recreation Building for Ex-Service Men.—The Red Cross Courier of December ninth tells of a recreation building of concrete and stone erected by the Government at United States Veterans' Hospital 44 in the West Roxbury section of Boston, for the use of the 237 veterans suffering from mental and nervous diseases who are being cared for there.

The large living room on the ground floor of the building provides a general rendezvous for the veterans. There is an auditorium for entertainments, fully equipped, and a complete stage with motion picture screen. Opening off the hall is a combined office, kitchen, and serving room for the use of the Red Cross hostess and her assistants.

On the second floor is a suite of rooms with complete equipment for a dental clinic. There is also a suite for the hostess and another for visiting relatives of the patients. The Community Service Occupational Therapy Department, Crafts Shops, and several administrative offices are in the basement.

The American Red Cross provided most of

the furnishings, but many organizations have assisted in making the building the splendidly equipped center which it is.

Winnetka Community House.—From Mr. J. W. F. Davies, Director of the Winnetka, Illinois Community House, a copy of the annual report of this house may be secured. The report contains a plan of the first and second floors, and information is given regarding the history and organization of the work and the programs in operation. The photographs which illustrate the report give a very vivid picture of the many activities which center at the House and suggest the joyousness and spirit of neighborliness which pervade the work.

Endorsement.—Whereas within recent months there has been organized in our city, the Owosso Community Center, an agency to organize and promote community expression through and by leisure time activities in athletics, recreation, music, drama, and pageantry, and

Whereas the War Camp Community Service was a great assistance to all service men through the war, and its successor, Community Service, Inc., has done much to aid the American Legion during its formative period and has aided the ex-service men in various ways, and

Whereas the Owosso Community Center is now affiliated with Community Service, Inc., and is a great force in bringing the various members of the community together, and

Whereas one of the greatest ideals of the American Legion is civic service,

Therefore, be it firmly resolved that we, the members of Patterson-Dawson Post No. 57, The American Legion of Owosso, Michigan, heartily endorse the Owosso Community Center and its affiliation with the Community Service, and will assist in whatever way we can to aid this movement in its efforts to make this a better community in which to live.

Patterson-Dawson Post No. 57,

The American Legion.

(Signed) Raymond F. Stark,
Commander.

(Signed) Joseph A. Macdonald,
Adjutant.

Municipal Christmas Cards.—Strangers in the principal hotels of Boston, Massachusetts, were presented on Christmas morning with Christmas cards signed by Mayor James M. Curley, carrying the following greeting:

To the stranger within our gates
This festive holiday season
The City of Boston extends
Hospitable welcome, and the
Best wishes of its citizens for a
Happy Christmas and A
Prosperous New Year

The same greeting was thrown on the screens of the downtown motion picture theatres.

The Christmas Committee of the Public Celebration of Boston suggested the plan and it was carried out with the approval of the Mayor under the supervision of the Director of Public Celebrations and with the cooperation of the hotels and theatres.

Historical Order Formed to Aid Pageant.—Elmira, N. Y., has a new way of breaking ground for the important historical pageant depicting the history of upper New York State which will be produced there next July.

Through its local chapter of The Sons of the American Revolution it has formed an historical association known as the Elmira Historical Society, whose especial and immediate object is the preservation and collection of relics for the pageant.

Elmira has many places and objects of historical interest. It is the aim of the Elmira Historical Society to preserve all relics now in collections for the benefit of the future generations. There are many historically important documents in the possession of Elmirans, and citizens have also many household souvenirs. The society wishes to get these things together and preserve them.

Mrs. Kate Deane Andrew, the Steele Memorial librarian, has offered the use of the two big rooms on the upper story of the new library for this purpose.

Dr. A. W. Booth, president of the Elmira chapter Sons of the American Revolution, has been appointed temporary chairman of the new organization.

Armistice Day Ceremony.—An impressive ceremony took place on Armistice Day in

Beaufort, S. C. when a bronze tablet commemorating service in the World War was unveiled in the Community Club.

Representative groups from every section of the little southern city assembled for the afternoon celebration. A detachment of United States Marines came over from Paris Island, with their good band and reinforced the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery and the American Legion in a parade from Government Wharf to the Community House. Beaufort Girl Scouts and The Civic League had an important place on the program.

The tablet was unveiled by two children and addresses made in behalf of the American Legion, the Red Cross and the County and City of Beaufort. J. Oliver Brison received the tablet in behalf of Community Service. Music, community singing and special drill manoeuvres completed the program.

Permanent Dramatic Club Formed.—As a result of the Drama Institute held in Huntington, W. Va. during last November a Little Theatre group, the Huntington Community Players, has been formed. Their first bill of plays was presented in December at the city auditorium and the productions were exceedingly well staged. A program of one-act plays has been outlined for the season and will be given regularly each month. More than a hundred students enrolled in the Drama Institute, which lasted three weeks.

Presentation of Religious Pageant.—A new religious pageant written by Annie Russell Marble, entitled *Founders of the Faith* was given recently at the 50th Anniversary of The Piedmont church, Worcester, Mass. Mrs. Marble's earlier pageants, *In the Days of the Judges*, and *Faith of Our Fathers*, both of which have been widely produced by Community Service dramatic organizers, are to be included in a collection of Religious Dramas and Pageants to be issued this winter.

A New Player Group Launched.—In the California city of Anaheim a little theatre group has been successfully launched this season as a part of the local Community Service program. Known as The Community Players of Anaheim, the organization has the active support of the high school and the teachers' organization. Meetings are held each month

and a program for the winter has been outlined.

Booth Tarkington's *The Ghost Story* was produced in December at the high school auditorium.

A Popular Thanksgiving Entertainment.—

A Thanksgiving program of exceptional beauty and artistic merit was given by The College Players at the Alumni Hall of Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md.

The Department of Speech presented Anatole France's *The Man Who Married A Dumb Wife* and the Music Department, Rosse-Vincents' *The Egyptian Princess*.

The scenery and costumes of both plays were designed and made by members of the dramatic class; the music, by the college orchestra, while the lighting was in charge of The Westminster Electric Co.

"The Light Of Albemarle."—The Greek amphitheatre of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Virginia, was the scene of a beautiful historical pageant presented in November in connection with the city's Home Coming Celebration.

The pageant, *The Light of Albemarle*, a poetic review of county and town history, was produced under the joint auspices of the local Chamber of Commerce and the Community Service Invitation Committee. It was directed by Sue Ann Wilson. Over 4,000 people attended. The music was directed by Mr. Arthur Fickensher of the University and Mrs. Fickensher. The community chorus developed by Mr. Fickensher, "The Albemarle Choral Club," gave the chorus numbers of the pageant, and the college orchestra, The Virginia Orchestral Society, helped supply the music which was augmented by the United States Army Band sent down from Washington especially for the occasion. The theatre is equipped with a wonderful organ which was used for several numbers.

Professor W. S. Rodman, the professor of Electrical Engineering of the University with several of his students, took charge of the lighting effects of the pageant and worked out a most interesting and effective lighting system, by equipping the four enormous flood lights owned by the University with a rheostat and color wheels.

The pageant was written by Paul Brandon Barringer, M. D., LL.D. and incorporated Frances O. J. Gaither's University Episode, *The Shadow of the Builder*, which was adapted and directed by Dr. W. M. Forrest and Dr. W. H. Faulkner. Negro melodies were arranged and directed by Frank Abbott. Community organization was represented by F. C. Williams.

The Elks loaned a room in the Elks Home for the workshop. Various church groups, school groups, members of the D. A. R. and other organizations assisted Miss Wilson in the making of costumes and properties. Enthusiastic community interest was aroused by this piece of intensive work. Rehearsals, held every day in the week for three weeks, also took place in the Elks building. The pageant so quickly, so brilliantly produced, met with full measure of public approval.

Don Juan's Dream.—Another historical pageant, *Don Juan's Dream*, directed by Edna G. Keith, given by the citizens of Monroe, followed the recent Shreveport pageant. This pageant, prepared in one month, was participated in by 3,000 people.

Similar in some respects to the recent Shreveport pageant, the history of Louisiana

was developed from the earliest Indian times, through the era of the French traders and voyageurs to the first Spanish settlement of Monroe, then Fort Mira, by Don Juan Filhiol, his family and others. The changing history of the locality throughout the centuries to the victory of New Orleans was given. A direct descendant of Don Juan Filhiol played his part in the pageant and carried his sword, now the property of the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter.

Besides the large numbers participating, an audience of 3,500 viewed the interesting production. The symbolic dances, the Indian ceremonials and French and Spanish dances were especially well done. Music was supplied by the Knights of Pythias Band. The pageant paid all of its expenses and had a small fund left over.

A Mistake We Are Glad to Correct.—We touched local pride very deeply when we stated in the October PLAYGROUND that Grand Rapids has *three* outdoor swimming pools. Mr. Teele, Superintendent of Recreation, writes us that Grand Rapids has thirteen such pools instead of only three! We apologize to Grand Rapids and gladly call the attention of our readers to the correction.



Intelligence and high standards of leadership are determining factors in the choice of Life Guards for the Swimming Pools of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Storytelling in Yakima.—The Storytellers' Club of Yakima, Washington, organized last year by the Community Service organization, has a program for 1923 that is reaching all parts of the county. Miss Esther Fleming, children's librarian, the president of the club, has drawn up the schedule for the winter months.

Last year the club told stories to children in all parts of the city, taking in some of those who live out quite a distance. This year, at the suggestion of Miss Mae Mark, county superintendent of schools, they are carrying their stories into a wider field—into the whole county. Miss Mark has offered to provide transportation for those who will go out into the country to tell stories to the children. The plan is the organization of storytelling clubs throughout the valley, and the organization of those interested in the work in the different towns.

"The value of the work in shaping the literary tastes of children can be added to the entertainment it affords them," said Jack Vincent, secretary of Community Service. "Stories of the very finest type are given the children—stories of historical interest, the old Greek, Roman and Norse myths, really beautiful poems like Enoch Arden and Robert of Sicily, and stories of the knights of the round table. Lincoln, Washington, Patrick Henry and McKinley were the subjects of programs of stories last year. There were stories of local interest, some of which were told by pioneers.

Extension Work in Drama.—Five Drama Institutes were conducted under the auspices of Community Service during November and December in the following cities: Boston, Massachusetts; Jackson, Michigan; Clearfield, Pennsylvania; Huntington, West Virginia, and Seattle, Washington.

In Boston, under the direction of Joy Higgins, the Drama Institute concentrated especially on drama for churches and for church workers. In Jackson, the interesting program, outlined and conducted by Nina B. Lamkin, comprised various forms of recreational activities as well as demonstrations of practically every form of dramatics. In Seattle and Huntington, George Junkin directed the institute and Elizabeth H. Hanley in Clearfield brought practical results in the formation of

permanent dramatic groups in each locality.

The Community Service Drama Institute conducts an intensive course in all forms of community dramatics and little theatre work and lasts from two to six or eight weeks. It includes training in play production, stage craft, lighting, costuming and advanced technique for those who have had some experience. The instructors invariably comprise in large cities a representative group of dramatic workers. Suggestions are given for the choice of plays for amateur production and training for children's drama, and elementary pantomime, folk dancing and pageant production.

The League of Neighbors Meets.—The fifth public presentation of the League of Neighbors took place at Elizabeth, New Jersey, December 7th. Dr. John H. Finley presided, introducing to the assembly each of the foreign groups present, and reading the various greetings and messages of good will from prominent Americans and foreigners interested in citizenship building.

Among the foreign groups gathered together were Italians, Portugese, Russians, Spaniards, Ukrainians and Assyrians. A large number of organizations, schools, social and patriotic societies were represented.

Music was furnished by the Ukrainian Band, and the orchestra of the "Sport Club Portugese of Newark." Selections from Italian operas were sung by three young Italian girls. A few of those sending special letters and telegrams of greeting to the interesting assemblage were: Everett Colby, Mrs. Caroline B Wittpen, Delos F. Wilcox, National traction expert, Dwight W. Morrow of the J. P. Morgan Co., Arthur Brisbane, Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., Howard S. Braucher, Homer Folks, John Haynes Holmes, Col. Arthur Woods, Robert A. Woods of South End House, Boston, Norman M. Thomas, Mrs. Willard Straight, Alejandro Berera, Consul General for Spain, George de Silveira Duarte, Consul General for Portugal, Gartiniano Camacho of Colombia, South America.

Fine Arts Day.—On November 17, the University of Kansas celebrated its first Fine Arts Day. In the morning there was a student

convocation of over two thousand with a program consisting of music—singing and selections by the University Band—and an address on the *Education of the Soul* by Dean Lutkin of the School of Music. In the afternoon there was a student art exhibit open to the public and a public recital given by the students of the Music Department of the School of Fine Arts which drew a packed house. The Fine Arts banquet in the evening, open to art students and faculty, was attended by three hundred and there were three hundred fifty people at the dance which followed. All the arrangements were made by student committees.

"After this," writes Dean Butler of the School of Fine Arts, "Fine Arts day will be a factor at the University, and we hope more and more to draw the attention of the other students in the school to the value of art and music study."

Are there not communities where a Fine Arts Day might mean a greatly increased appreciation of art on the part of all the people?

Toy Making in Middletown, Ohio.—Classes in toy making and gift clubs kept scores of children busy and happy on the Middletown playgrounds during the months of November and December.

The clubs were formed on each playground. One, comprised of the older girls, made handkerchiefs and many dainty embroidered articles; a club of smaller girls learned basket weaving in reed and raffia; and one club was made up of the smaller boys who were not old enough to take manual training in the schools.

The playground superintendent, with a traveling kit of tools, visited each of the boys' clubs once each week, giving instruction in the making of telephone ladies, rocking clowns, jointed dolls and dogs. Each boy supplied himself with a coping saw and paid for the wood used. For the smaller boys cigar boxes were used instead of the material supplied by the playgrounds.

These classes and clubs numbered from twenty to thirty members, elected a president and secretary, and selected a name. So great was the interest manifested by one of the toy-making classes that they have applied to the Boy Scout Executive for a leader and plan to carry on their activities as the Wolf Cubs.

Community Service by Proclamation.—

"To the people of Peru, Greetings:

"Whereas, no city can prosper or progress unless at all times its people, men and women, young and old, give to it their thought, time and affection, and

"Whereas, the citizens of Peru in large numbers are now engaged in a campaign for Community Service, forming for its purposes an expanded effort to make Peru a more pleasant and attractive place for our boys and girls, men and women,

"Now Therefore, I, as Mayor of the City of Peru, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 22nd, 1922, as Peru Community Service Day, and do hereby call upon all citizens who have the good of Peru and its children in mind and in heart, to devote their time and cooperation to the Community Service campaign for memberships.

Done at the office of the Mayor, November 21, 1922."

(Signed) Chas. E. Simmons,

(Seal)

Mayor of Peru, Indiana

It Happens When You Least Expect it.—

"It's no use trying to get the School Board to let you use the High School gymnasium rent free. They won't do it. You'll never get the country club swells to come." These are specimens of the wet blankets a Community Service organizer recently received. Before he left the community, the High School gymnasium was being used free of charge for big community parties and members of the Country Club and members of the Plumbers' and Carpenters' Unions were playing "Jump, Jim Crow" together.

A Newsboys' Playground.—Community Service of Lake Charles, La., has recently opened a playground for newsboys on a plot of land opposite the American Press. This gives the boys an opportunity for play for an hour and a half before press time. In the afternoon, the ground is used by a large number of men who pitch horseshoes there.

A New Dramatic Enterprise.—Salt Lake City, Utah, has recently organized a Community Drama League of which the mayor is president and Miss Charlotte Stewart, Supervisor of the Recreation Department, is secretary. The purpose of the league is to create an

opportunity for those talented along the line of acting and play writing. It will produce, under its auspices, dramas, comedies, operas, festivals, pageants, and reading and classics for schools.

There are three classes of members—active participating members who pay one dollar a year; students paying dues of fifty cents a year, and subscribing members who are entitled by paying a fee of five dollars to tickets admitting them to all performances.

A New Little Theatre.—The Irene Kaufmann Settlement of Pittsburgh, of which Sidney Teller is director, held on November 28 the opening performance of its new Little Theatre. Booth Tarkington's *Penrod* was the play given.

The Little Theatre contemplates the presentation of five productions during its first season. All interested in any phase of dramatic production may apply for membership in the group whose cast and staff are made up entirely of members and workers of the settlement under the direction of I. Robert Groder and Julia P. Teller.

Community Dances in Reading, Pennsylvania.—A series of community dances is being held with much success in Reading, Pa. The first one drew an attendance of 125; the second, 325, and at the next an attendance of 500 is expected. Although there is no charge made everyone has to have a ticket. Two-thirds of the young men and young women come from the industries. The tickets are sent to the heads or superintendents of the various industrial firms. The names of the receivers of the tickets are taken and the superintendents or heads held responsible for the distribution.

The best halls in the city have been secured for the dances, free of charge. Prominent people of Reading act as host and hostess. There is always a good orchestra present and demonstrations are given of proper dancing and positions. There is, as a result, no improper dancing, the hall is filled and everyone has a good time.

Community Centers in Lawrence.—The community centers established in the schools constitute a notable phase of the work of the Community Recreation Department of the

Community Council in Lawrence, Mass. Each community center has its own program of activities which caters to the popular desires of the neighborhood. There are regular monthly gatherings as well as weekly classes, and entertainments of many varieties.

The children's dancing class in one center numbers fifty boys and girls and the adults' class one hundred and fourteen. In another center there are four basketball teams, two of girls and two of boys. In still another there is an orchestra, and classes in basketry, winter hikes, and skating parties form a part of the program in some of the centers.

In each of the districts the activities are in charge of a committee of residents of the neighborhood. In four centers the work has been organized and is proving itself very effective. In two more the work has already been planned and efforts are being made to bring these on a par with the others where the growth of the community spirit has been so successful.

Municipal Golf Courses.—An eighteen hole municipal golf course which will represent an expenditure of about \$60,000 for purchase of land, construction of course, and erection of a small club house, has been assured for Fort Worth, Texas. Announcement has been made by the Public Recreation Board of the purchase of ninety-six acres of land permitting of a course 6,482 yards long. A ground fee of twenty-five cents will be the only charge made for the use of the course. The fees will be used to meet expenses of upkeep.

Two other eighteen hole municipal golf courses are being constructed in Texas this year—one at Houston and the other at Dallas.

Special Saturday Movies at Lancaster.—The Boy Scouts, Boys' Department of the Young Men's Christian Association, Parent-Teacher Association, and the Lancaster Recreation and Playground Association are uniting to carry on a program of Saturday morning moving pictures for children. "These programs are varied," writes Mr. Grant D. Brandon, Superintendent of the Recreation Association, "including sing songs with illustrated songs thrown on the screen, local talent, and recitations and tableaux, scout demonstrations and seasonal programs, as at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The moving picture program contains a feature suitable for children, a comedy, and if possible, an educational picture. There is a definite arrangement with the management of the theater regarding the films to be shown before any advertising matter is sent out. A number of parents are always present to act as chaperons."

The admission charge of ten cents, paid by each child, does not meet all the expenses of the performance, but the committee feels that the results to the children more than compensate for the slight deficit in operating expenses.

Commission Members as Publicity Agents.

—In the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Board of Recreation of Passaic, New Jersey, there appears a paragraph relating to an activity not ordinarily taken into account but which is none the less of primary importance. It reads as follows:

"The members of the board and superintendent shall address public meetings and special groups whenever possible upon the general subject of organized recreation for the purpose of acquainting the citizens with plans of the department."

By Request.—Through the Detroit Educational Bulletin of December, the Recreation Department of the city announces that any recreation activity in which thirty people express an interest will be fostered by the Recreation Department. At the request of any group or organization, the Department will also furnish a trained leader to conduct any kind of program. This is a new service and one that will probably prove popular.

Adult recreation has a more prominent place on the program of the department than it has ever had before. Activities for adults who are employed during the day are being conducted in six Community Centers, thirty-three schools, and on twenty playgrounds throughout the city.

How Catasauqua, Pa., Solved its Recreation Problems.—Four thousand seven hundred and thirty-five dollars was needed to start a Park and Playground Association for Catasauqua and give it funds on which to proceed. Prominent citizens and business men, notably W. R. Thomas, Jr., shouldered the job. Application was made for a charter and the city was divided into districts with teams and captains

appointed to secure subscriptions from each. A capital of 25,000 shares at \$1.00 a share was stipulated and these were sold to each family with the idea that everyone should own at least one share of stock in the Corporation, dividends payable in health to the community, thus insuring a perpetual interest in the work of the organization.

The business of the corporation is managed by a Board of Directors of eight, elected in annual meeting by the stockholders. There are four officers.

Through the sale of shares and from the proceeds of a bazaar, funds were secured to purchase a large tract of land through which the Catasauqua creek flowed. This made possible the building of a large artificial lake which gave the town a popular swimming pool.

The playgrounds and park now cover 16½ acres of ground—a very beautiful spot and a source of great enjoyment to the community.

Funds for upkeep are provided for by donations from generous citizens, from the sale of stock and from the carnival run each year by the Playground Association in which everybody participates, thus creating a true community spirit.

Instructors in athletics are employed for both boys and girls. At present the erection of a dance pavilion is being contemplated to be used as a recreation centre through the winter months.

Recreation under the Partnership Plan.

The Dutchess Bleachery at Wappingers Falls has a Board of Operatives made up of employees elected yearly by secret ballot of all the operatives. Six members from this group are chosen to serve on the Board of Management of the Dutchess Bleachery together with six representatives appointed by the company. There is an executive secretary on salary who gives full time to the work of the Board. Four committees carry on the activities of the Board—Working Conditions, Housing, Recreation and Education, and Finance. The Recreation and Education Committee takes charge of the athletic field and the playgrounds. It also organizes the educational classes and arranges entertainments and social parties. The athletic field, with its high banks which make a natural stadium, is sufficiently large to be used for carnivals and pageants. The

children's playgrounds which are open to all the children of the community have, in addition to regular playground activities, cooking clubs, sewing and dressmaking classes, and home nursing. There are also vegetable gardens for the children.

"Nothing attempted by the Board of Operatives," says the report, "is more important than this splendid playground work in its service to the children, homes, and community and in the effect which it will have on the happiness and effectiveness of the next generation of citizens at Wappingers Falls."

Keeping Modesto Interested in Its Playgrounds.—"We had three playgrounds open this year as opposed to one last year, due to the demonstration we had made on the one playground," writes the Community Service Secretary in Modesto, California. "We had many special days and activities during the summer to help keep up the interest of the children and give us publicity features so we could get parents out. One of these features was to make Wednesday afternoons 'music afternoons.' Each Wednesday we had some volunteer prepare a short story about an opera or some other composition or about the music of some special group—as Indian music. This story-teller made the rounds of the three parks, spending about forty-five minutes in each. Here she told the story and illustrated it with appropriate selections on a phonograph. We borrowed the records and machines from each music dealer in turn, featuring now the Edison, next the Burman, Victor, or Brunswick as the case might be. As a final event on the closing day at the end of summer, we held a contest, playing six records selected from the group used during the summer. Two thirteen-year-old boys and a nine-year-old girl turned in perfect scores, naming the record and telling correctly what it represented. Our attendance records show that Wednesday afternoons were the most popular afternoons in the week, and they steadily grew in popularity. We had many 'regulars' among the adults, too, on Wednesdays."

Hallowe'en on Modesto playgrounds was the most spectacular event of the season. "We sent notices through the schools" writes the secretary, "inviting parents as well as children. Over four hundred actually came in costume.

Another four hundred were present but not in costume. This was quite a large percentage of those available. Between five hundred and a thousand parents looked on in addition to those who watched from automobile and dooryard. We held a parade from a down-town park to an unknown destination. At the end of the line of march a huge bonfire had been prepared using the tree trimmings from the parks as fuel. Story-telling, fortune-telling, parading to show off costumes and the bonfire consumed about an hour. As a final event a wild animal hunt was held. We had hidden near-by ten pounds of animal crackers over two blocks of park space. They were hidden everywhere imaginable, some being even fastened with rubber bands to the leaves of trees. The children were turned loose. Wild animals counted twenty points each. Domestic animals were worth ten points. A few home-baked witches counted twenty-five points. The winner, an eighth-grade boy, had 530 points to his credit. Prizes were given for the best costumes as well as to the winners of the hunt. The total cost was \$13.50, and from twelve to fifteen hundred individuals enjoyed the evening."

New Developments in Stockton, California.

—Stockton, California reports as the most significant accomplishment of the year past the opening of the municipal camp at Silver Lake, as a result of the work of the Citizens' Committee appointed last year by the City Council to investigate suitable sites. A beautiful lodge 32 x 64 feet has been constructed of peeled logs and granite with an immense fireplace, in itself a remarkable piece of handiwork.

Two fine springs with an adequate supply of cold clear water are on the camp site and two nearby mountain streams offer possibilities for a complete and adequate electric light system. The surrounding mountain scenery and the lake provide an attraction which never loses its power to charm. Eight nearby smaller lakes with endless possibilities for mountain trails satisfy even the most enthusiastic hiker.

The municipal camp proper opened on July 31 and 374 people were entertained during the remainder of the summer. Campers willingly gave an hour's service each day because it was *their* camp. Operating expenses were met by the fee charged and a small sinking fund was provided.

THE MUNICIPAL HUT

The Recreation Commission, in cooperation with the Stockton Unemployment Commission necessitated by the industrial situation of last winter, operated during January, February, and March, 1922, a Municipal Hut which served as a social center for unemployed homeless men. A warm, well lighted room was equipped where the men might sit around and talk, read, smoke, play cards, checkers, and other quiet games. Music was furnished by a piano and victrola. The attendance averaged more than 125 a day.

THE MUNICIPAL BAND

Sunday evening band concerts from May 21 to October 1 given in every park in each section of the city were a feature of the year's program thoroughly appreciated by the public. These concerts were made possible through the cooperation with the Commission of the Merchants Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Have Our Readers Any Suggestions?—The following letter from a correspondent in San Bernardino, California, will be of interest to readers of *The Playground*. Has anyone any suggestions to offer on the point raised in the letter which we might publish in *The Playground*?

"I have just read your booklet, '*Athletic Badge Tests for Boys*.' It has prompted me to write you for more information. I agree most thoroughly with program and ideals proposed.

"I have long desired that there might be some system devised whereby not only the fellow who makes good in the athletic contests, may be given an incentive reward, but also that this may be done for the boy who overcomes a handicap—physical, mental or moral.

"Some of our very finest citizens (to be) are playing the game as 'subs' with little hope of public recognition. Many more go down in defeat because somehow to them there has seemed little of opportunity or possibility of getting into the lime light of public commendation.

"I take it that all effort in Physical Education seeks to secure better and nobler manhood from

generation to generation. And it is probable that the universal findings of such tests as the badge test, may yet evolve a standard code and series of tests that will indeed produce a 'better America' Better and more perfect not only physically but finer and nobler morally and spiritually.

"While I now feel that it is the physical activities of our youngsters (old or young) that is breaking or making them, I also feel that the incentive for perfection should go deeper and further than the physical. And that this incentive will be promoted and become more progressively fine as we recognize and reward for the winning of a hard fight over a handicap that has previously tended to destroy rather than elevate.

"How this can best be done? I wish I knew. I feel that it can best be done through physical education."

The Church at Play.—There can be no question of the awakening on the part of the church to the value of recreation as a part of the church program and as a community activity with which the church is very directly concerned. Abundant proof of this is found not only in the plans and programs which are being put into effect but in the deliberations at conferences, in the material appearing in religious journals and literature, and in the public utterances of clergy and laymen.

The Church at Play is the subject of a new book by Professor Norman Richardson of Northwestern University. There are three articles on recreation in the November number of the *Sunday School Journal*—A quotation on Recreation from the *Psychology of Children*; *Wholesome Recreation*, by J. C. Elsom; and *The Relationship of Physical Education to Moral Training*, by Alfred F. Linde.

The reports of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of Cities of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in Chicago in February, 1922, are characterized by constant references to the importance of the leisure time life. *The Spiritual Purpose of Recreation* was the subject of a comprehensive address delivered at this conference by the Reverend M. Stephen James of Revere, Massachusetts, who made a plea for recreation not as a "bait to entice wary youths into religious activities of the church, but because it is powerful in itself as a discoverer

of new life," and because in play life the real personality and the strongest interests of the child find expression.

"As a general statement," Mr. James says in summing up his discussion, "We may say that the gaining of these spiritual purposes need not wait until an elaborate program can be initiated. There are situations where it is not necessary for the local church to put on an elaborate program of its own, where the strong community forces have been organized to provide good and adequate recreation as a community project. It is our business to co-operate and contribute as liberally of our service and literature as we may . . .

"To summarize: Play is at the heart of childhood and youth. Its potent influences play upon the body, mind and soul, but its greatest reactions are spiritual. It is one of the greatest educative activities of young life—perhaps the greatest. He who governs the play life, controls the atmosphere of the play, sets the rules of the game, and gives it examples and influence through leadership, which will work significantly upon the developing character of youth. Any of the spiritual purposes which are embodied in our Christian ministry to childhood and youth may be aided by a recognition and use of the recreation program as an integral part of our Church program. The question that comes is, 'Will we allow the play life of our youth to be influenced and taught by the careless creed of the amusement lover? Will we allow the spiritual results of play to be in terms of soul impoverishment and moral bankruptcy or will we set our churches to using it for the high purposes of Christ?'"

A Noteworthy Pageant.—"The Mile Stones of a Race," a pageant presented in ten episodes indicating the high spots in the history of American Negroes, was recently given at Memorial Hall, Dayton, Ohio, by a cast of five hundred colored people—men, women, boys, and girls. There was a record crowd in attendance, and it was quite noticeable that the number of white people present was greater than at any previous occasion where the program was presented or controlled by a colored organization or group.

The pageant was presented through the

vehicle of tableaux, heralds, folk dances, songs, Negro spirituals and unique scenic effects. The scenes included African reproductions, American slavery, the proclamation of Freedom, accomplishments and contributions to America. Two episodes especially emphasized military operations under the flag. Some of the slavery scenes were very effectively accompanied by the singing of Negro spirituals. As the weight of slavery was being portrayed, it was some relief to hear the group singing, "I'm So Glad Trouble Don't Last Always."

The entire program was under the auspices of the Federation for Social Service, the Community Service organization among colored people in the city of Dayton, of which W. Gertrude Brown is executive secretary. Ada Crogman, special organizer of community dramatics, was both writer and director of the pageant.

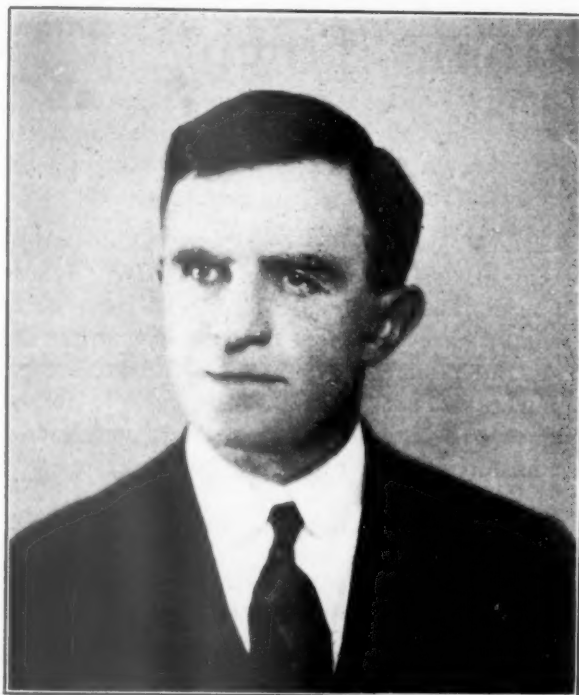
The participants in the program were secured from over twenty organizations and included people who are not usually seen on the stage of activities of this character. The unique feature in the episode, "Black American Start," past and present, was the introduction of the character who represented Paul Lawrence Dunbar, and following, the late author's own mother, who is still a citizen of Dayton. Much credit is due the various organizations of the city which took part and to the members of the cast who were to so large a degree responsible for the great success of the pageant.

Signal service was rendered by Dr. Arnold Shaw as herald, and Mrs. Genevieve Douglas as soloist; the Community Service Female Quartette, the Boy Scouts, the Uniform Rank of the American Woodmen, the Boy Scout Orchestra, and the students and quartette of Wilberforce University.

Athletics for Girls.—A great deal of interest was expressed at the Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, on the subject of athletics for girls, and the dangers of exploitation in athletics and competitive sports were pointed out.

Resolutions were passed by the New York State Teachers' Association at its conference at Syracuse, November 29, 1922, recognizing the values and urging care in conserving the values of recreation for girls.

A Leader in the Recreation Movement



CHARLES B. RAITT

Superintendent of Recreation, Los Angeles, Cal.

Because he has used his reputation as a college athlete and his love of outdoors for the service of his fellowmen.

Because he was one of the recreation movement pioneers.

Because he has built the recreation system of Los Angeles from the first foundation stone or rather from the first playground.

Because through his own work and through those men and women whom he has trained, he has done much to make the directors of the city's recreation a real force in the life of Los Angeles.

Because he has worked out a splendid system of municipal camps, the first of their kind.



Reproduction of lantern slide used by the National Thrift Week Committee to emphasize the need of wholesome recreation.

Beauty in the Home Town*

LORADO TAFT

Chicago, Illinois

A curious thing happened to me last week. A pleasant voice called me on the telephone in Chicago and said it belonged to a lady in charge of the advertising department of Marshall Field's, adding that she supposed I would not have time to write an advertisement for her. I assured her I would not. She kept right on speaking, however, explaining that they were to have a special week of advertising in country towns and were asking certain leading citizens to write a few well chosen words, and she was authorized to insult me with a suggestion of seventy-five dollars for about a hundred and fifty words. I presently found myself apologizing for my hasty decision and telling her that I might find time if it were to be so brief. With much effort I finally achieved a three-hundred-word article and took it down to meet my censor. It was rather neatly done, I thought. It began in this way: "I once asked James Whitcomb Riley how he accounted for the fact that most of our poets and artists came from small towns. He said, 'It is due to the habit of self-amusement. The city boy is fed with predigested amusements. The country boy has to amuse himself.'" I concluded the paragraph with these words: "Better a rag doll and imagination than all the mechanical toys in creation." She said it was too long, and struck out that last sentence. She said it looked like a slam on the things they were advertising. I had another paragraph with something about the advantages of toys which challenge to creation on the part of the child. She said they could perhaps use that part of it.

My audience may feel tonight somewhat as the young lady did, when I speak of the great advantages of the country boy, having nothing, over the city boy, with his organized entertainments. She did not allow me to make my full proposition. You will, I am sure. To my mind, it is this—that imagination is cultivated by the absence of all this jiggling movie-show of life in which many of us city-dwellers find ourselves swamped with amusements prepared for us,

overdone, predigested, so that we play no part in them. But it is not enough to be freed of those things. The country boy and girl must occasionally have a glimpse of something different; must meet something which sets the imagination to work. Then when they go back to follow the plow and wash the dishes it is with a new companion whom no one can take from them.

CATCHING THE VISION

Once I was visiting in Florence and spent a day among the great sculptors of the fifteenth century. There were not only Donatello and Luca, but our beloved Desiderio of Settignano, Benedetto of Majano, and Mino of Fiesole. Toward night I climbed the dome of the old cathedral. It came over me as I studied this mighty work and as I looked out over the surrounding country with its little villages here and there, that in the beginning these great men were little country boys living in those same obscure towns, boys who were permitted now and then to travel the dusty road into the great city, there filling themselves with the wonders of it, and then at nightfall going back to their homes tired and excited, but with a vision. I could see them sitting under the gnarled olive trees, thinking and dreaming until the smouldering fire burst into flame and they announced to their astonished families that they too were going to create things, were going to be artists. That is the way artists are made. That is the way art comes to the world.

I am from a state that I am proud of, a big state, four hundred miles long and two hundred and ten or twelve miles broad, and I am sure I do not know how many miles deep. The wealth of Illinois is in its soil but its depth and richness have greatly handicapped our civilization. We have four hundred cities of over a thousand inhabitants, and until recently not one of them would you think of visiting on account of anything man has made. There are fine people there; the places are historic; but the only objects of beauty which they possess are the trees our ancestors planted, and the girls. Illinois is a long way from Europe, a long way from

*Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J. October 9-12, 1922.

Florence and those other lands which have produced art. I deplore the fact that there is very little to inspire art even in our larger communities. I want to see a great temple of art at our state university, which is a place where young people come and live four years, their eyes open to all kinds of wonders of science and literature, but with nothing to fire an artist's imagination. The same is true of Chicago. We have advantages there and things are developing, but we have little of beauty to offer the eager-eyed young people, who come in from the country to the great city. They should find there inspiration to last all their lives.

WHAT SHALL WE BEQUEATH

You may think of art as a pretty and an interesting thing, but after all a superficial matter. To me it is a religion. It ennobles life. The thing that separates us from the animals is the fact that we can send messages on down through the generations. Animals provide instinctively for their offspring but I never heard of an animal caring much about its grandchildren. We do that. We can send greetings to a world unborn. We can think back through the ages ago and be grateful to those who have wrought for us. The means by which this is done is art. Through poetry and painting and sculpture life begins to explain itself. We do not know what it is all about, this mortal existence, but I know that it becomes reasonable if there is a little gain with each generation. The thing most precious we embody in the form of art and transmit it with our love to those coming after. So the little lands that all together would not fill our great state of Illinois—lands like Greece and Palestine—have bequeathed us their treasures, while other enormous territories have done nothing for us. These little countries have created and we have entered into their labors. We must cultivate this precious thing which expresses the lives of men and transmits to other generations.

GREAT ART DEMANDS PASSIONATE APPRECIATION

I am embarrassed because I am asked to tell you a bit of personal experience. I recognize about half of your number as friends of Community Service who have come to my studio; to you "Weavers," and "Planters" and "Har-

vesters" I have already told my little story and have nothing new to tell, but I will repeat it once more because that is what I was imported for, at great expense! It is a very personal story, but I cannot help that. First, one word about the changing point of view as life goes on. I chose art because as a small boy I had a little facility in drawing and I took pleasure in hearing my mother talk about it to the neighbors and hearing them say, "Isn't that wonderful?" "Isn't that cunning?" At the beginning we are all little prigs and frankly selfish, but that is the way art begins; it comes from the pleasure of doing things and having them appreciated. When I was sent away to school and met a thousand other little "smarties" I found I wasn't so wonderful. In Paris I was protected by my ignorance. We are all protected by our ignorance. Years went on, and then I returned to America and in the city of my choice, in Chicago, I found that nobody wanted me or my art. They felt they had no particular need of sculpture there. They had not heard of sculpture. As in music and the drama, I found that after all it was the cultivated public which was more important than the creator, the composer or the writer. Walt Whitman wrote, "To have great poets you must have great audiences, too." Someone has said, "Great art demands passionate appreciation." How are you going to have passionate appreciation if you haven't the art to begin with, and how have art if you have no appreciation? You see, it is a vicious circle. It is like the old question, "Which came first, the hen or the egg?" That is the difficulty in America with regard to art. We are doing well, we think, as well as other lands, but we are not appreciative. Donatello was great, first because he was talented, and second because he stood on the shoulders of other men who appreciated him. That is the way art comes and it is the only way we can have it, but we in America are headed the wrong way. How few of us use our hands, and how small a group, outside the artists themselves, is to be found who appreciate art. What is going to be done about it? We hear men saying, "Johnny, study hard, so you won't have to work with your hands when you grow up." That kind of attitude is unfortunate because it tends to separate us into classes. When our goal is never to do work with our hands it is a disastrous time for a democracy. I feel strongly that it is important to us as a people to use our hands, to learn to

do things with delicacy and skill. Even in your work you can go farther than you have. You should have more creative games—amusements that produce visible results.

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN A SMALL TOWN

Now, about this personal experience of mine. It was in 1917. Some of us have been spending our summers on the banks of Rock River for the last twenty-four years. It is about a hundred miles from Chicago and a group of painters and sculptors have gone there to camp every year. My children have grown up there. We are two miles from the little town of Oregon. We like the town but for several years we paid small attention to it because our camp was not very near, and we loved our solitude in the woods. Then a curious thing happened, something which brought me close to the town. I made my big figure which they call "Blackhawk." Some of you have seen it. It stands on a bluff by the river's edge, as much like the crag as I could make it. I did it because I thought the bluff needed the figure, but the townspeople got the pleasant impression that I was doing it for them, and they began to be nice to me. Then I began to love them, because I decided I had done it for them. A little later I had an opportunity to make a soldiers' monument and we worked together for a year, they paying the actual expense. We made a big one and had on it the names of thirty-five hundred soldiers who served in the Civil War. By that time the town was growing very dear to me. One day I picked up an automobile "blue-book" and turning to Oregon, this is what I found: "Oregon, Ill., 2300 inhabitants. Points of interest: Artist's camp on the hill—'Blackhawk'—Soldiers' monument—Governor Lowden's stock farm." I was gratified that it had been my privilege to help to make that little community interesting to itself. Our towns have memories, have traditions that are deserving of record, but how neglected they are. They have to be capitalized in order to make the town interesting to itself. We neglect that. We live so violently, and destroy all record. That is not civilization.

WHAT CAN A FELLOW DO?

That same year, 1917, I chanced to be in Oregon late in the fall, at the end of the long happy summer. I was held there modeling a

group for a fountain in Denver—a group of lovers. Tony, an Italian, was posing for the lover and doing the errands. I mention him because a few careless ungrammatical words of his started something with me. One evening he announced he was going to the movies down town. The next morning my wife asked him how he liked the show. He replied, "All right, but I couldn't get in." My wife sympathized with him. We had not known the movies were so popular, but he added, "I got in at the second round." My wife then asked him what he did while he was waiting. "Well," he said, "I just walked up and down the street. What can a fellow do in a town like this? They ain't nothing."

We had a whole day to think and talk it over: Is it true, we said, that a town like this, full of well-to-do people, with a good high school, does nothing for its young people after they graduate? Those words of his struck to my heart. I had heard a hired man say to me a few weeks before, "You are never here in winter. In summer it's all right, but in winter it's hell." That had not made the impression however, that Tony's words did because we had not had time to talk it over. It is hard for those who have no resources for their leisure hours. The average comfortable citizen knows nothing about the loneliness and the idleness of the ignorant, of those who do not know how to entertain themselves. We set to work to plan something for them.

A COMMUNITY HOUSE PROVIDED

Well, we now have a community house which cost several thousand dollars. I wish you could all go out to see it. If the people wanted it enough there is not a community in America but could afford a wonderful club house. The question is to make them want it enough. Our communities can afford anything they want, if they want it enough. Finally, after talking and planning—my wife and I—we found we wanted to have a theater, a gymnasium, and a swimming pool, because, although we are on the river, it is so full of typhoid fever that our boys are forbidden to swim in it. I became very enthusiastic over our new idea and I had to talk with the people downtown. We soon found that they did not want it as much as we did. One man told me they had had a boys' club once—that when the saloons were closed they had

thought they should have a boys' club, but although they had fitted it up nicely, in six weeks everything was smashed and it had to be closed. I asked him if they had a director for it. No, he said, they had forgotten that. My wife had asked Tony if he had not thought of going to the library while he was waiting that night. But Tony was not from Boston, and he would not have known what to do in a library. Someone told me of a sternly efficient librarian who commanded "Silence here" when a farmer came in talking. The farmer never finished his sentence and never went again to the library. That is about the way we go at things in America. It is either a cold storage library or a "hot time" in the old town. I knew I could not do alone what we wanted done, so I went to Mrs. Lowden, a neighbor. She has money, but is discreet, and is splendid. She said it ought to be self-supporting. I agreed with her, but told her the people had not got the idea yet, and somebody had to start it. I told her we knew of an old house, that the artist's colony would fit up if she would buy it. She gave us \$1500, and the artist's colony raised an equal amount. It is a model and very attractive. It is used constantly, but there are still so many things we need. I have learned much about the social stratifications in a town of that size: that even in that small number of people there are hundreds who never meet. Our house lacks much, but it is a beginning. A great thing in my own experience is that it has made me interested in such efforts in every town I go to. I think of the joy I take in Brimfield, Illinois, a town of three or four hundred, with a community house which cost \$36,000.00. I asked the man who started it how he happened to do it and he said at night he had heard the ribald songs of a roadhouse and he thought how soon his own children would be seeking recreation and that they must have a decent place to go to. So he called his friends together and they started with small subscriptions. It became a real community enterprise with about eighty per cent of the stock raised by the farmers. There are other towns which have done as well.

We have an art gallery in Oregon. Not many towns of 2300 have an art gallery. Painters have come and put on canvas the beauties of our Rock River Valley, and their pictures, some of them, are there on the walls of our gallery adjoining our community house.

WITH THE A. E. F.

One of the great experiences of my life was going abroad in service. I had lived abroad, but this was quite another Paris from the one I had known. The six months I spent there in uniform I would not trade for any like period that I can think of. It was a wonderful thing. I have talked to crowds, to university audiences, to Chautauqua audiences, but I had never met an average American audience until I went into those huts and saw the boys sitting there because it was cold and rainy outside. They had no preparation for listening to a lecture on art. One had to be agile to gain respectful attention. I tried to interest them in the wonderful story of French art—told them about the castles and the cathedrals, especially the cathedrals. I knew those cathedrals. To give lectures on European cathedrals before you go, is a good preparation for a trip abroad! I knew them by heart. I had seen several of them, but not Bourges. It was my privilege to travel a hundred and forty miles south of Paris to see it. There it rose, so impressive, like a cliff rising out of a sea of red-tiled roofs all around it. I came nearer and stood looking at the five portals and in the center the "Last Judgment." The carving delighted me. I stood looking at it and smiling at the figures when I heard a voice behind me say: "Gee." I knew that was an American art criticism. It was an encouraging one because it showed interest. The voice went on, "Well, what do you know about that." I could not resist telling him what I knew about it, so I turned to the young man and he asked me a very intelligent question. He said, "Can you tell me how that thing happened?" I told him with all the eloquence I could command of the wonderful period from 1180 to 1223 when these things sprang into existence, when every community was on tiptoe to create beauty, when every man, woman and child was dreaming of making something beautiful to the glory of God and the glory of the home town. And I went on and described how all the people worked and toiled for many years on a single building and how "when their work was done they went home and left a miracle on the plain," yes, a great white miracle of stone. People cross the ocean in these later years to see these miracles. We talk of those times as "the dark ages." Oh, that some glow of those dark ages might come to us—that we too might know the exaltation

of a community all working together splendidly for a splendid cause. We felt a little of that emotion three or four years ago, but that was for a destructive purpose. If we could only feel it for creative purposes, think what it would mean!

We face one of the greatest problems of all time. There never was so prosperous a country as this. Of what consequence is it all if people merely come out of the ground and grow big and fat and then lie down and leave no record? It will never do. There must be some message sent on down through the ages.

To return to my experiences with the boys. First I was with the "rank and file." Later on I was at Beaune at the A. E. F. University. The three months there were very wonderful; I had trained, responsive audiences. But I had developed a great affection for those other untutored boys. They had no resources, no background of any sort, and their leisure time was a great problem. At Beaune it was different. There was not much intemperance there. The last few weeks I lectured to the art students gathered together in Bellevue. As compared with the first audiences, it was the difference between night and day. They were absorbed in their work. They had every privilege: we visited studios and museums together. And in the whole six weeks there I never heard a profane word. Believe it or not, this is true. The reason we had no trouble with the boys at Bellevue is because they were full of happy activity. That is the way to fight evil; the average youth is wholesome if kept occupied. That experience was a revelation to me. So I have come back refreshed and much more earnest in my work and vastly interested in what you are doing and in all its ramifications—the drama, motion pictures, music, all the fundamental things.

BRING BEAUTY—AND LEAVE BEAUTY

A few weeks ago I was in St. Louis with a group of people, the Art Extension Committee of Doctor Hieronymus' Better Community Conference at the University of Illinois. About a hundred of us went on an excursion to "see Illinois first," and to see what we could discover of beauty and historic interest. In Saint Louis we were

nicely received, and behaved pretty well in turn. As I stood at the entrance of the Art Museum I noticed a young lady of our party undoing a package of films for her kodak and throwing the wrapper on the pavement. I went over and picked it up and said, "We representatives of a Better Community Movement should not leave a place looking worse than we find it." That kind of thing means a good deal to me. I have oftener wondered if the beginning of good citizenship might not lie in the teaching of children to pick up papers! It has to do with beauty and art and decency. A certain wise man once asked how early one should begin to teach neatness to children. His answer was, "As early as the child can rumple up a rug, you can teach him to smooth it out again. Get children to pick up papers rather than to scatter them. There is nothing finer than for a child to be able to say, 'This is my town. Isn't it beautiful? I helped to make it so.'"

Friends, you have had a long and strenuous session and I must close. I cannot refrain however from quoting to you two or three thoughts which have greatly impressed me. I once heard Dr. Woods Hutchinson say: "The time is near at hand when public sentiment will not allow a man to have too much while there are little children in the community who have not enough."

Here is a quotation from Roosevelt: "This world will not be a good place for any of us to live in until we make it a good place for all of us." Another: "Not money, but the life that a community provides is its real wealth." That is one of the finest of all. It might well be over the door of all our community houses. It is what you of this congress believe and what you are living. The same thought is on a placard written by the director of the art museum of Toledo: "A community is as rich as its understanding of the use of riches." Another is almost a gospel to me. It is a translation from Spinoza: "I cannot believe that the good of this life lies in the possession of those things which for one man to possess is for others to lose, but rather in those things which all may possess alike and where one man's prosperity increases his neighbor's."

Was It Worth Two Cents?

Last summer the Civic League of Lexington, Kentucky, according to the report of the Supervisor, Mr. W. J. Sanford, had a staff of fourteen workers conduct seven playgrounds for eleven weeks at a total cost of \$3,299.41, or a per capita cost of \$.022.

"Among the special events," says the Supervisor in his report, "there was none more popular than the Pet Shows. These drew thousands of people and contained a variety of animals that would be hard to find outside of a Zoological Garden or Circus. The largest show, which was a Pet and Dog Show combined, was dubbed by a reporter as 'The Animal Fair.' More than 5,000 persons attended and they found 396 birds and beasts there. There was a marmoset which divided popularity with a four-foot alligator, red fox, brown bear, crocodiles, a coon, a manx cat with white tassels sewed in its ears in the Turkish fashion, a goat, a poisonous female scorpion from South America, with her young on her back, and other more common pets. The wading pool was the theatre for antics of the brown bear and the Muscovy ducks. An Australian parrot, a prize winner, whistled for the many dogs entered in the bench show, and crowed like a rooster. The several ponies exhibited were put through all their tricks by proud young owners and another center of attraction was a litter of Maltese kittens a few hours old. Salamanders, turtles, lizards and snakes were among the unusual pets shown, and there were many rabbits, cats, guinea pigs, pigeons, birds, and chickens. There is no doubt that these shows have done much to create an interest in animal life. The lesson 'Be Kind to Animals' has also been taught through talks and stories and in some instances, the children have dramatized the stories.

"Each playground also held a doll show. One had 553 dolls and an audience of 2,000 children and adults. There were dolls of all ages and nationalities and one doll had been loved by a wee girl who died in 1842. Furniture and doll-buggies had a big part in this unique display.

"One of the most picturesque shows of the playground season was the lantern carnival given at Woodland Park on the night of August 4th, in which 200 children took part. The children were well drilled and marched with their lanterns in hand, forming many beautiful figures. The many lanterns of every description

turned the park into a veritable fairyland.

"About 600 people congregated on the banks of Clifton Pond one afternoon to witness Lexington's first miniature boat contest. The events were divided so that the home-made boats would not have to compete with the store model products, and four beautiful bronze medals were given as awards to the boys who proved their boats to be the best. Twenty boys entered their miniature craft which included a variety that would be hard to describe. Sail boats, yachts, toy launches, miniature battleships, tramp steamers, nondescript boats propelled by rubber bands and one boat which used batteries and a motor for a propellant, were seen in this interesting and constructive contest.

"The Duncan Park Minstrel Show deserves special mention because the young men of Duncan Park trained for several weeks in order to give a creditable performance and the back porch of the Park House was equipped with real scenery and foot-lights, the work of the boys themselves. The show scored a big hit, with the audience estimated at more than 2,000.

"The largest and most successful picnic in the history of Lexington's playgrounds was held at Woodland Park. Before ten o'clock in the morning the grounds were crowded, and immediately the committee in charge of the events began the program. During the morning races, novelty events, a checker tournament, a horse-shoe pitching tournament, a handicraft exhibit, and a Captain Kidd treasure hunt interested and amused several hundred children and adults. In the afternoon, in the roped arena in front of the band stand, each playground staged a stunt. These stunts included folk dancing, goat-ball, boxing, a dramatization of *The Three Bears*, an imitation of a modern jazz orchestra, and last, a farce entitled *When Knighthood Was in Bud*. The handicraft exhibit contained over two hundred articles of various kinds, for which awards and premiums were given. The day's program stands out as a concrete embodiment of the results of the summer season."

In the final paragraph of his report, the Supervisor makes the following very pertinent suggestions: "I would suggest that public-spirited citizens might well be reminded by the commissioners that there is no gift that can be made to the city of greater use and enjoyment with more lasting honor to the name of the donor than the gift of land for a public playground."

Kids and Cabbage

V. P. RANDALL

There was no question but that Mary was a delinquent. The judge, guided by the evidence in the case, had declared her one. And that settled it.

But, after due consideration, it was decided not to send her to an institution. A sad-eyed, sickly mother who seemed to be in a perpetual state of indecision, and an unkempt, incompetent father had agreed that Mary, being the eldest, was needed at home to help out in the care of the other children with which the couple seemed to be well supplied.

So Mary went home and the judge asked an efficient, sympathetic woman who gave of herself as well as of her money, to be a "big sister" to the girl and give her such guidance as she could.

"There is," mused the newly appointed big sister in thinking over her task, "a cause for every effect. This is an effect and it is quite obvious that the thing to do is to quit fussing about it and correct the cause. Then the effect will take care of itself." So she set out for Mary's home, the chief characteristic of which was that it was just like thousands of others of its class.

Here she found the girl trying to wash a small baby sister, keep a larger one from getting into trouble with the stove, quiet a five-year-old who was giving vent to his unhappiness in tears, suppress hostilities between a boy and girl aged about nine and eleven respectively, and prepare supper against the home coming of the father, the supper consisting principally of a rather meager portion of corned beef and a fairly liberal supply of its historic consort—cabbage.

"She's lying down," replied the girl in response to an inquiry as to the whereabouts of the mother. "She isn't very well. She isn't well most of the time." So the problem of temporarily disposing of the weeping one and the two belligerents was solved by giving them each a nickel and suggesting that they go to the candy store—which suggestion was quite unnecessary. Then something in the nature of a "heart to heart talk" was attempted.

It was the same old story told thousands of times. A girl of sixteen whose wistful face and appealing eyes told, even more plainly than did

her words, a story of a great hunger for normal social life, for physical and mental recreation, and for spiritual food which was needed as much as the physical food of which she had none too much. An effort—a blind, groping, despairing effort—to balance a life, one end of which was weighted down with monotony and drudgery, had resulted badly.

Lacking the right kind of friends, and also those two essentials—opportunity and leadership—the cheap dance hall with its "ladies free" night, the questionable acquaintances made there, an occasional sensational moving picture followed by an automobile ride with these acquaintances, served as a wretched substitute for the wholesome recreation which every normal girl needs.

Then the children came back, the candy having been consumed, the crying and fighting was resumed and the talk was over.

As the "big sister," feeling none too big for the task, stood by the door preparing to leave looked at the "little mother" struggling with this brood of younger brothers and sisters, the thought again came to her, "Back of every effect is a cause. And the cause here seems to be kids"—she coughed a bit as her lungs filled with the odorous vapor of the now boiling supper—"and cabbage. That's it, kids and cabbage. And considering the provision which this community makes for the recreational necessities of its young people, it's a wonder that Mary has done as well as she has."

"In their play children learn to observe quickly, to judge, to weigh values; to pick out essentials, to give close attention; they learn the value of cooperation, to recognize the rights of others as well as to insist on their own being recognized; they learn the value and function of work and the joy of accomplishment. No wonder that play is regarded by many as the most important educational factor of them all. A child who does not play not only misses much of the joy of childhood but he can never be a fully developed adult. He will lack in many of the qualities most worth while, because many of the avenues of growth were unused and neglected during the most plastic period of his life."—Norsworthy and Whitley in *The Psychology of Childhood*.

Physical Fitness for America*

The Campaign for Universal Physical Education

MRS. MILTON P. HIGGINS

President National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

Our National Conference of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is about twenty-five years old and we have an office in Washington with the National Educational Association. This implies, and correctly, that we are in very close communication with the educators from the fact that our organization is particularly interested in bringing together the educators and the parents of the community, and not only the parents, but all those who are interested in child welfare. We are organized in forty states, with officers, with districts, with local associations, and these are increasing rapidly. Within the last year we have increased over a hundred thousand members, and now have between four and five thousand members. The recreation movement is a very important part of our work, and its representatives are welcomed into our Parent-Teacher Associations, which meet generally once a month in the schools. We are not concerned entirely with the mental and the physical education of children, not so much with that as with character building, because educators take care of the mental end of it in good shape and we do not want to go contrary to what they are doing. As far as physical education is concerned, that we find important. We need the Playground and Recreation Association and all the philanthropic organizations which will help in our main object of character building.

We are born with an instinct for play which develops very early. It has to be recognized in our organizations, and we find it recognized throughout all the states. As I have been through the south and the east and the west I find that is one of the strong things with which we have to reckon and it is a great element in character building if started in the right way. We stand for neighborliness, for all the good things which will bring the community together. When there comes any great question which affects our whole nation as a general thing public sentiment is on the right side. We find that clear back to the time of Paul. He presented things,

especially in his attitude toward this very matter of character building, with picturesqueness. He said you should have your loins girded about with truth, that you should have the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, and then that we should take the shield of faith wherewith to quench all the fiery darts of the devil. That is what we all need today, those four things. We, the Parent-Teacher Associations, try to emphasize those four things, and whatever comes in to help us we welcome. Preparation for parenthood is entirely lacking in our country and yet it is the most important thing there is in this wide world. What is the use of all the rest of the paraphernalia if we haven't good parenthood? And so today we are taking up that question of the training of parents. Massachusetts, in its state board of education, is turning to aid the Parent-Teacher Association. They say they will establish a school for parents if a certain number of parents will agree to attend. It will start, I presume, with a summer school. This year at Columbia University we have been having a series of lectures on what the Parent-Teacher Associations can do. With the world upside down, as it is today, with all the various elements working against each other, we need to come back to foundation principles. And where shall we start? With the education of the children. And so we of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations are glad that there are so many philanthropic organizations coming together to do so. You need not be afraid we shall have duplication. We need every bit of help that can be given for the better training of the next generation to be the citizens of the future. We need the help and the strength not only physically, but for the sake of the mental and moral and spiritual growth of children, which has so far and in so great a degree been neglected in the educational system.

So, friends, throughout the whole country, as I travel, I am glad to find so much interest every-

(Concluded on page 575)

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J. October 9-12, 1922.

Physical Fitness for America*

The Training of Physical Education Leaders

J. H. McCURDY, M. D.

President, Training School, International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association,
Springfield, Massachusetts

I wish I might first bring greetings to this congress from the teachers of physical education throughout the United States. As the secretary of their national organization I think I may properly do that.

The topic I was asked to talk about is the training of teachers of physical education. I should like to speak from the standpoint of the training of teachers of play as well as of teachers of direct physical training. It seems to me one of the first things we need as workers together is to get a vision of the whole field. We do not want in our judgments to be like the little girl who was discussing the problems of the intelligence quotient. She had been examined and they thought she was not quite right, so she had been sent to a special school. The school found her bright and she was sent back to the regular school. The other little girls were talking it over among themselves and were very curious to know where Mary had been. One said she had been to the idiot school, but she failed and was sent back here! We sometimes fail as playground and recreation workers because we do not see what there is in other fields, and so we do not pull together in a very thorough fashion. The other day I heard the statement made with reference to the development of playgrounds, that teachers of physical education were not interested in play. I think of Hermann who thirty years ago brought the play movement to the front and emphasized what they were already doing in Germany, and the need of those in physical education getting into it. I think of Luther Gulick, a physical education man, as the founder of this playground movement. I think of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, coming from a class in psychology in a physical training college. I think of one of his pupils who invented volley ball. I want to emphasize to you that we see the problem, and we see it as a problem of health examination in the beginning. We must

know what we are dealing with in the children. Just bringing them on to the playground, with no knowledge of what they really are, may do harm. We must depend upon the public schools and the work of physical education in the public schools, and must cooperate with the other public school districts in getting a vision of health instruction. Unless they know as children what the things are to do, and do them readily, they are not getting what they ought to have. You must see the health aspects in play and physical education. You can never get from play alone the results you are striving for.

Then, there is that other great group—we ought to catch the vision of the athletes who are making the moral standards for the youth of the land. I refer to the high school and college athletic teams. Perhaps they overdo things, but let us catch the vision of their cooperation that must be ours if we are to touch the lives of boys and girls and of their parents. One young man left physical education work and went into the movies. He was making about \$500 a week, but he decided it was not yielding him much in the way of character values, so he gave up his job and went into the public school system. He took up recreation and physical education. The parents in that city appreciated the work he was doing, so that after a year's work he was getting \$2600, then he was raised to \$3600, and two of the fathers gave him a check for \$200 apiece in addition. I asked him, "What was the difference between the man they fired and you?" He said, "I think he was as good a coach but in some way I touched the lives of the boys so that the parents felt they were getting character values." Let us get the vision that in the last analysis it is the boy and the girl, it is their health, it is their character, that is our work. All of these factors contribute to getting the result we are after. Let us see the vision in physical education, in recreation, in health education. Let us work together, let us play together, to get the big results.

*Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J. October 9-12, 1922.

Physical Fitness for America*

Human Waste the Result of Inadequate Physical Education

EUGENE L. FISK, M. D.

Medical Director, Life Extension Institute.

Physical fitness for America means physical freedom for America. Political freedom alone can never bring happiness and prosperity to any country. By physical freedom I mean that liberty to work and play, and fight if need be, which only sound health can confer. No country can long maintain political freedom after it has lost physical freedom, and to my mind the most important position any country can take is with relation to health ideals. Health ideals are lower than they should be throughout the world. The nation or community that tolerates a high death rate from typhoid fever, tuberculosis or any of those diseases is a decadent nation. At the present time there is improvement in the health ideals throughout the world, but it relates more particularly to sanitation and to community hygiene. We are just in the dawn of personal hygiene, or the science of individual right living—care of the individual body. There is no word emphatic enough to express the influence in that direction of just such work as is represented at this congress. The war was a great eye-opener as to the physical state of civilized man. In such work as we have been privileged to do in the Life Extension Institute, the lessons of the war were anticipated by many years. We could have predicted these results. It is possible to effect an improvement of at least forty per cent in the general physical state of civilized man. In the past one hundred years there has been added to the expectation of life, at birth, about eighteen years. That represents what has been done in the years before the age of five. That apparent improvement, however, is a thing we must suspend judgment upon, for there has been a tremendous mortality from influenza. It carried off many lives and weakened others. We must not sit back and fold our hands and say everything is growing better every day and forget what is going on underneath the surface. We must study life habits and teach people, first, to have higher ideals of responsibility for the condition of their bodies; second, to establish life-

long habits of activity in order to offset the sedentary life which most of us are forced to lead, and third, to teach the laws of hygiene and apply them intelligently to individual needs. This means we must be periodically examined and that scientific knowledge shall be applied directly to individual need. This is not a materialistic view. The perfectly healthy man is the perfectly adjusted man, and that is the idea that we must set up if our civilization is to endure and go forward. This means instruction in hygiene for everyone, and this will go further than anything we now have in placing our nation on a higher moral plane.

I want to make a plea for general physical activity apart from athletics and apart from necessary exercises on the part of those in training for special purposes. Without being a nervous jumping jack, you can establish habits of moving around, of physical activity, even when engaged in sedentary occupations. It is the satisfying of what I like to call "muscle hunger." For instance, in taking a long railroad journey, passengers should take advantage of all stops at stations to get out and walk. In the intervals when men sit around and loll and play bridge in the evening let them use their spare time in recreations that open up the primitive channels of the brain. The neglect of this thing, even though you take the more highly recommended physical exercise, will lead to trouble. There is no royal road to health. There is no use in living long unless we are healthy. Moses died at the age of one hundred and twenty and is supposed to have been in perfect health.

"The settlement movement understood clearly that it must establish contacts with the people themselves, and enlist their support; that it must make everybody part and parcel of whatever action was decided upon as necessary. If a new structure was to be built, the people themselves must build it. The settlements possess a point of view which I fear is lost sight of today by many interested in community organization."

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J. October 9-12, 1922.

Physical Fitness for America*

MARTIN G. BRUMBAUGH, PH. D., LL. D.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

When I was a youngster a few years ago and went to public school my teacher did not know what to do with my body. The teacher had an idea that somehow or other the body had to come along to school with the mind, like Mary's little lamb, but that when it got there it was an absolutely unnecessary and useless appendix to the thing she was to educate. She tried to make it keep still when it wanted to wiggle. She put the body into unusual positions—sometimes in the corner of the room. In those times we none of us knew what to do with the body.

We have found out, largely through the necessities of our national need, that the body is as important to the nation and to the individual as is the mind, and that any system of education that does not train the body cannot adequately train the mind. So we have found not only because of the unfortunate revelations of the late war, but from the reports of health authorities, that more than 75 per cent. of our children are physically impaired. And because 71 per cent. of our criminals now in our penal institutions, are of juvenile age we have come to believe that it is time in this republic to do something to correct these conditions, that we must have a citizenry physically fit to serve not only in times of war but in times of peace, that we must have a citizenry so equipped in health that it will be disposed to obey the law and behave itself seemly in society. For you know better than I that when you have a weak body you have an impaired intellect and an impaired view of life. You must have physical fitness in order to have a fine nation.

So we have gotten together, those of us who believe that thing, and introduced into the national congress, and into the legislatures of several states, bills providing for physical education for all the boys and all the girls of America. It is no credit to us that less than ten per cent. of all school children receive any physical care, and the few who do receive it are in the large cities. On the great plains and in the rural and semi-urban communities the children of this republic are still carrying the ills of their fathers

and their mothers, and these things will not be remedied until enough men and women not only see but act to change this situation.

I realize that the time that was allowed to me has already gone, and yet I want to say one or two things more, no matter what happens afterwards. You are all wondering, I think, what has occurred in Washington. You are aware that we introduced, under the immediate care and direction of Mr. Caulkins, the Fess-Capper bill and that we had no trouble in securing its immediate consideration. Then trouble and delays arose. Did you ever try to get a bill through Congress? Try it sometime. I am perhaps on personal speaking terms, even friendly terms, with more than half the members of that entire body, and yet it was hard work even to find the rascals, much less to dispose their minds to act in any way to secure important results. The whole trouble is that there is no large organized public sentiment to bring pressure to bear upon politicians to act. They say we are dead right, and then they sit back and watch us work.

If we want this legislation we must go after it, hammer and tongs, whatever that means. It was first of all understood from the beginning that our Fess-Capper bill was to stand in abeyance until action was taken on the larger Shepard-Towner bill, because in the larger program was provision for the thing we sought, namely, universal physical education. That larger bill was delayed for two reasons. One was the introduction of a plan of the Executive to create a Department of Public Welfare, and the feeling that there could not be two new cabinet portfolios created in one legislature. When that difficulty was ironed out along came the reorganization commission which was to try to eliminate duplication and waste from the national government, and we were told that when their bill came in it would provide a place for our physical education work. But it has not come. It has been ready for some time, but the politicians have not been ready. After all these delays we now have the assurance that either that or our own

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* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J. October 9-12, 1922.

Physical Fitness for America*

The Campaign for Universal Physical Education

C. WARD CRAMPTON, M. D.

New York City.

A few weeks ago I was called to the bedside of a man who was one of the most promising of the young, big, vital writers of the day. He had pneumonia. His lungs were almost completely solid and he had perhaps a sixth of his usual breathing capacity. When I went in he smiled and then went back to the business of breathing. It was hard work for him. It took all of his attention. The doctors there said, "If we can pull him through the next forty-eight hours, if his heart will only last that time, there is a chance." I looked him over, as a consulting physician does, and I turned away with a very bitter feeling. My heart sank because I knew his heart was up against a race and it was going to lose. It was small; it had never been trained; it did not have the fiber of the heart a physically trained man or woman has; it was as different from a well trained heart as a cotton thread is different from a rawhide thong, and I knew it could not win. In six hours the man died. He had no right to die. He owed all of us, New York and the rest of the world, twenty years more of brilliant and beautiful service, which he could have rendered if he had had the physical equipment that would carry him through this test. He was not to blame primarily. The man who had charge of the school he attended as a child was more to blame. And not only the principal but the superintendent behind. And not only the superintendent but the state. Not only the state, but the whole times were wrong, and to blame for this untimely death. We cannot blame the times so much, back in 1896, and '97 and '98 and '99, because this movement for physical training had only just begun, adjustments were being made and knowledge had not traveled very far. The old fashioned superintendent of schools thought he was doing well, thought he was doing his best, and in that school he was, because the school was known throughout the state for the excellence of its education. This strong old principal was proud of the fact that these new fads that were springing up had

never been allowed to interfere with the main purpose of education. He educated his children, but he did not train them. But there is no excuse today. This organization and other organizations have spread the knowledge of what it is necessary to do very widely. The truth is at hand for everyone who has charge of children. I should like to be able to show the principals and directors of boards of education in many localities the picture I saw on that death bed. I should like to show them the things I see in men and in women who come to me and whom I see in hospital practice of various kinds. I see chests that are like cages and ribs so like iron that they do not move with the breathing. Chest expansion of one half inch is far more common than an expansion of three inches. Hearts and lungs are restricted. The digestive operation is almost prohibited. Chronic indigestion of the invalid today is directly due to the lack of power which could have been gained in the plastic years. Some doctors think that if a heart is not large and beats regularly everything is all right. He is wrong. A heart may be small and beat regularly, and yet be entirely inadequate, so that when it comes to the test in the last struggling years of life it fails.

I should like to show you, too, other pictures. A few years ago there came rushing up to a physical training man in the railway station in Kansas City a veritable dynamo in the shape of a young man of about thirty years of age. He greeted him, but the physical trainer did not place him. He said, "I am one of your old basketball boys. I have been doing exercises and playing basketball every day since." He was a regular "go-getter type," the kind the Rotary Club man would call a "he-go-getter." I could show you pictures of many men who have got into difficulty by neglect in the later years of life who have been able to draw upon the bank of vitality stored up in their youth. You should know as an organization and as individuals that what you do in training every

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*Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J. October 9-12, 1922.

For the Youth of America

The Man Power Conference

The movement for universal physical education was given an additional impetus by the action of the Manpower Conference called by the Secretary of War and held in Washington, November 16, 17 and 18. The backbone of the speech by Secretary Weeks was an appeal for universal extension of physical education including athletics and games for all and adequate health supervision which will reach all the boys of the nation.

General Pershing urged that local, state and national governments should cooperate in providing this fundamental training for the youth. It was pointed out that regardless of what may be done in the provision of fighting equipment and technical military training, the nation can not be fit either for peace time activities or for defense in an emergency unless all the children in their younger years are given the fundamental training involved in the broad modern physical education program. General Pershing stressed the need for national leadership and cooperation with the states when he called attention to the fact that universal military training was established in theory in this country in 1792, but failed in effectiveness because the entire responsibility was placed upon the states.

After the opening addresses by Secretary Weeks, General Pershing and the Chairman of the Conference, Brigadier General William Lasiter, the delegates were divided into three major groups: (1) Reserve Officers' Training Corps; (2) The Civilian Military Training Camps; (3) Citizenship Training.

Under the third group were discussed plans for non-military programs training boys to be mentally, morally and physically fit for all the responsibilities of citizenship. The Sub-committee on Physical Education drew up recommendations which were adopted by the full Committee on Citizenship Training. These recommendations give not only a strong endorsement of the campaign for state and national legislation for physical education but also endorse athletic badge tests like those of the Playground and Recreation Association of America and propose a wider extension of their principles. The report of the Sub-committee on Physical Education follows:

Whereas the physical examination incident to the draft of young men into the Army and Navy

during the World War discovered that approximately one-third of our boys were physically unfit for front line duty at an age period when they should have been at their height of physical efficiency, and

Whereas, every physical examination that has ever been made of groups of individuals has disclosed a considerable percentage of incapacitating health impairing, and even life-destroying, preventable and remediable physical defects, and

Whereas, the acquisition and conservation of high grade national vigor is quantitatively possible only as a product of national physical education properly and universally applied throughout the periods of infancy, childhood, adolescence, and early maturity, and

Whereas, a balanced program of physical education must include instruction in hygiene with appropriate distribution of emphasis upon habits, attitudes and knowledge relating to health; periodic examinations with safeguarding advice; and adequate big muscle activity, happy play, wholesome recreation, and stimulating athletics adjusted to the possibilities and limitations of each age period.

Be it therefore resolved:

First, that a comprehensive, thorough going program of universal physical education is of pressing and vital importance to the nation, particularly for all boys and for all girls under the age of nineteen in all communities, rural and urban in every state of the Union, and

Second, that state legislation for the acquisition and conservation of national vigor by means of thorough well-balanced programs of physical education of the infant, the child and the young adult in preparation for citizenship is a fundamental necessity, and

Third, that Federal recognition of the importance of these objectives and Federal cooperation in furthering their attainment are urgently needed in order to give national encouragement and support to a universal program of physical education and would include every state in the Union and will assist every state in reaching and training every boy and every girl in the United States for competent and productive citizenship.

Your committee is strongly impressed with the fundamental importance of encouraging organized athletics and games appropriate to different ages, in order to promote the physical development of the nation's youth. Park and playground departments, public school systems, and local associations of all kinds should be urged to expand

their work along this line. National associations should be urged to encourage their members to foster and assist the local development of their particular branch of sport. Every agency, public and private, local and national, should do its part in promoting the physical development and efficiency, not only of the boys and girls, but also of the young men and young women of the country.

As one of the means of attaining the objectives outlined in the foregoing statement, it is believed that sound and generally applicable specifications and standards of physical fitness should be formulated and utilized as a guide in providing a most practical and stimulating incentive for youth to participate in activities that make for physical efficiency and that provide the means for measuring achievement. It is therefore practicable and desirable to set up specifications and standards of physical fitness for boys and girls on the basis of age, height and weight.

It is recognized that time will be required to study and formulate all the objectives and tests referred to in the preceding sections of this report. The Committee recommends therefore that:

1. The National Amateur Athletic Federation be asked to undertake to define these specifications and standards and to promote their use. This particular organization is recommended because, in the planning and promotion of the program it would have available the resources of an influential group of organizations within its own membership and could secure effective cooperation from the large number of other organizations working for the physical improvement of youth.

2. Inasmuch as the mere establishment of specifications and standards is not sufficient to overcome physical deficiencies and general personal participation in athletics, sports and games would be of great value to that end, we recommend that the National Amateur Athletic Federation of America be urged to assume the responsibility of inaugurating immediately through its constituent members and through cooperation with all other civilian agencies, a vigorous campaign for nation-wide participation in athletics, sports and games.

It is desirable, however, to utilize immediately any tests that have proved useful in actual practice. To this end we recommend further:

3. That this Conference approve of the promotion of the athletic badge tests for boys and girls.
4. That the War Department put into opera-

tion in civilian camps and other military training units, the physical efficiency tests of fundamental abilities which were finally adopted for use in the training camps during the war, with such modifications as may appear desirable.

Respectfully submitted,
JOSEPH E. RAYCROFT,
Chairman.

W. H. BALL.
LORNE BARCLAY.
COL. HENRY BRECKINRIDGE.
E. S. BROWN.
WILLIAM BURDICK.
E. DANA CAULKINS.
C. WARD CRAMPTON.
CHARLES M. DEFEST.
J. L. GRIFFITH.
LEE F. HANMER.
O. T. MALLERY.
GEN. E. PALMER PIERCE.
THOMAS A. STOREY.
THOMAS D. WOOD.
LIEUT. COL. W. C. JOHNSON, G. S.
MAJOR A. D. TUTTLE, U. S. M. C.

Training the Youth of the Country*

GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING

I can think of no undertaking that should to a greater degree enlist the serious thought and devoted service of the educators of the land, as well as others who are interested in the improvement of the physical condition and the quality of citizenship in America, than to formulate a plan which would become the basis of rational training for our youth throughout the country. As has been mentioned by the Secretary of War, the physical examination incident to the draft brought out the fact that a large proportion of our young men were in varying degrees defective either mentally or physically, or both, while a large proportion of all drafted men were found to lack any clear comprehension of their obligations as citizens.

It really becomes then a national duty for us to make a very careful survey of this startling situation and undertake to apply the remedy. I think all those educators who participated in the prodigious educational scheme that was undertaken for our soldiers in France after the Armistice

* Address given at Man Power Conference, Washington, November 16, 1922.

must realize perhaps more fully than any others the necessity for the extension of education to a greater number of boys and girls than now have such advantages. The training of our youth, of course, should be universally enforced, but in most instances the ignorance of the youth is the direct fault of the parents; in others it is the local authorities who are to blame for not enforcing compulsory educational laws.

SOLDIERS EAGERLY WELCOMED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

It will be recalled that when opportunities were presented to the young men of our armies, many of whom had never been to school a day in their lives, the desire to learn was immediately manifest and the opportunity eagerly embraced. As a result of what might be called the awakening of their minds, large numbers of these men have since continued general studies or have pursued specific courses up to graduation. During the brief period of this educational experiment over there special attention was given to training for citizenship with most excellent results.

In the process of the general physical and mental training of our young manhood and young womanhood, and without special emphasis, there is naturally developed an attitude of mind which leads readily to an appreciation of obligations to organized society and government, involving the idea of loyalty to our national institutions and their defense against aggression. That we have not adopted the principle of universal military service renders it highly essential that training which leads up to and, as far as possible, includes preparation for military service, should be popularized by all available methods. Incident to such training, it should be pointed out that there are many advantages, not only to the country in improved citizenship, but to the individual, in developing self-discipline and respect for authority, as well as physical improvement and precision.

TRADITIONAL UNPREPAREDNESS

Following the lessons of the Revolution, a law was passed in 1792 which prescribed universal military training and service. It undertook to draft every able-bodied man in case of war and required that each state should be divided into districts according to population. It provided for the selection of captains and other officers who were expected to enlist the serviceable men

of their respective communities. Each citizen soldier was supposed to provide his own equipment and to be in every way ready for service, but the execution of the law was left entirely to the states without supervision of federal authority to enforce it. Through differences of opinion and lack of interest the law was generally disregarded and little was ever accomplished in the way of training or organization as a preparation for war.

Even in the face of the disastrous failures of the war of 1812, and the early days of the Civil War, no new system was evolved, and it is only recently that any sort of preliminary preparation has at all appealed to our people and cooperation between the several states and the national government been secured. An understanding exists now, however, which promises the guarantee of the services of sufficient numbers of young men serving voluntarily to permit the preliminary organization upon which we can build our defensive structure. As a matter of fact, only a small proportion of our able-bodied men are really needed to meet any ordinary emergency, yet it is essential at the same time that all young men should receive training according to some general plan and be impressed with their obligations, whether ever likely to be called to the colors or not.

EVERY INSTITUTION SHOULD PROVIDE PHYSICAL TRAINING

The main purpose of this meeting is somewhat broader in scope than the training of men for the nation's defense although this latter thought should be included in every general scheme of training and education. In other words, every educational institution in the country ought to provide a systematic course in physical culture that would include all students, both male and female. Group athletics, as developed by the Army, would be extremely advantageous to the average pupil, and if understood would appeal strongly to the parents as well as to the students themselves. In the general improvement of the physical health and stamina of our youth we would find a much larger proportion physically able to serve the country in time of need than was found upon our entry into the World War. Moreover, a corresponding improvement in intelligence and moral tone would naturally elevate the standard in patriotism and citizenship of our people, upon which our future actually rests.

It is our fervent hope that out of this conference may come some suggestion from the educators here assembled as to plans and policies which could be applied to our public schools everywhere and through which the lessons of patriotism and obligation that go to make up good citizenship would be adopted as a general procedure and taught effectively the length and breadth of the land.

It is very gratifying to us in the War Department that the educators of the country have taken such an active and lively interest in this important question and we feel confident that the results will lead to a re-awakening of the importance of this vital subject.

Protection against Ignorance

CHARLES W. ELIOT, PRESIDENT
Emeritus, Harvard University

The task of so conducting the schools that future Americans will be taught to think for themselves, demands the attention of the country's leading business minds.

THE FIRST STEP

The first step in the improvement of the American schools is the introduction of universal physical training for both boys and girls from six to eighteen years of age. The program should be comprehensive and flexible; so that the needs of different types of children and different individual pupils can be met. It should include the means of remedying defects and malformations as well as of developing normal bodies. It should include exercises which might fairly be called drills, but many more which would properly be called games or sports. Except in extreme weather most of the exercises should be conducted in the open air. Carriage, posture, gait, rhythmical movements, and team-play should be covered. With the introduction of universal physical training should go the universal employment of physicians and nurses for incessant diagnostic and preventive work in schools of every description.

The faithful and intelligent administration of a sound program of physical training in all American schools, public and private, elementary and secondary, is so intensely a national as distinguished from a local interest, that the pro-

gram should be prescribed by the national Bureau of Education, or some analogous Bureau or Commission; and the execution of the program should be incessantly supervised by inspectors appointed and paid by the National Government. Further, the National Government might properly and wisely pay to State, County, or Municipal educational authorities, or to the Trustees or owners of private schools, a small sum (a dollar perhaps) annually for each pupil well-trained under the prescribed program for one year, as determined by the national inspectors. When universal physical training has been well carried on for twenty years, an immense improvement will be seen not only in the aspect of the population as respects posture, relation of weight to height, and muscular development, but also in their comfort, health, and productiveness at daily labor.

Universal physical training, combined with medical inspection and nursing service in all schools, will in time remedy in great measure the grave bodily defects in the population.

The Problem of Labor and Capital*

THOMAS W. LAMONT

What other hurdles have we to leap in our race for prosperity? Certainly our labor strikes form one, and a big one at that, even though the worst may now seem to be over. We all say that we deplore these wretched struggles, yet the extent of our regret must be measured by our endeavor to prevent their recurrence, by our attempt to reconcile the conflicting views. As bearing upon this situation, I ask you, who are so influential in counselling large men of business, to remember that in this country there are still traces of arrogance among employers, as there are manifest signs of arrogance in labor. Yet the employer has even less excuse for arrogance than the laborer. The high wages of the war and of the years just after had, not unnaturally, a somewhat "spoiling" effect upon labor. They gave labor the feeling that it must always share in the prosperity, never in the adversity, of business. I deplore that feeling; yet I beg to remind you here that that feeling of labor, in so far as it was directed to the improvement of living

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* Extract from address before American Banker's Association, October 3, 1922.

The Play Day of St. Louis

ETHEL ARMES

The annual Play Festival of St. Louis is held late in August in the broad green fields and wooded hills of Forest Park. Thousands of children and young people, with their parents, attend, from every section of the city.

The great event actually begins to supersede the circus in popular interest and attendance. It is such a vast community undertaking for one thing. Nearly everybody takes part, and because each participating group and individual gives special preparation in one way or another, from summer to summer, the interest is quickened. The Play Festival is something the people themselves make. Then too, it's a free show; it is literally of the people and for the people. Special cars, run from the Municipal Court Buildings down town, carry the crowds direct to Forest Park. There are places there for picnic lunches. Every child is always certain of a treat. Whether or not he has a nickel or two in his pocket he gets an apple, pear and orange and ice cream—not just one ice cream cone but two! The Papa club, an organization of St. Louis fathers, sees to this.

The handicraft articles made by the children and older groups on the various summer playgrounds of the city, are all on exhibition in the big white tents staked in the Park for the Festival. There are woven goods of beautiful patterns and colors; scout hammocks, handkerchiefs, dresses, aprons, baby bibs, overalls, bead and knitted work, toys, sand and clay work, kites, jig-saw work, electric table lamps, telephone stands, basketry, benches, tables, camp chairs—every sort and kind of article both decorative and useful for household use or camping out. There are paintings and sketches, embroidery, and books and cards of specimens of wild flowers, ferns, trees, insects. These show to the public what the summer activities of the children have been apart from the athletics events, the music and drama.

All the parents coming to the Play Festival

thus come to see something their children have made and to see them take part in an event requiring perhaps special ability and skill.

Each child—besides the delight of beholding his own handiwork on exhibition and having his parents see it, also has the opportunity of seeing what all the other children have done. And, invariably he has a brother or sister—sometimes several—in the pageant or the games and athletic events. Long before anything begins in the program everyone wonders who is going to win!

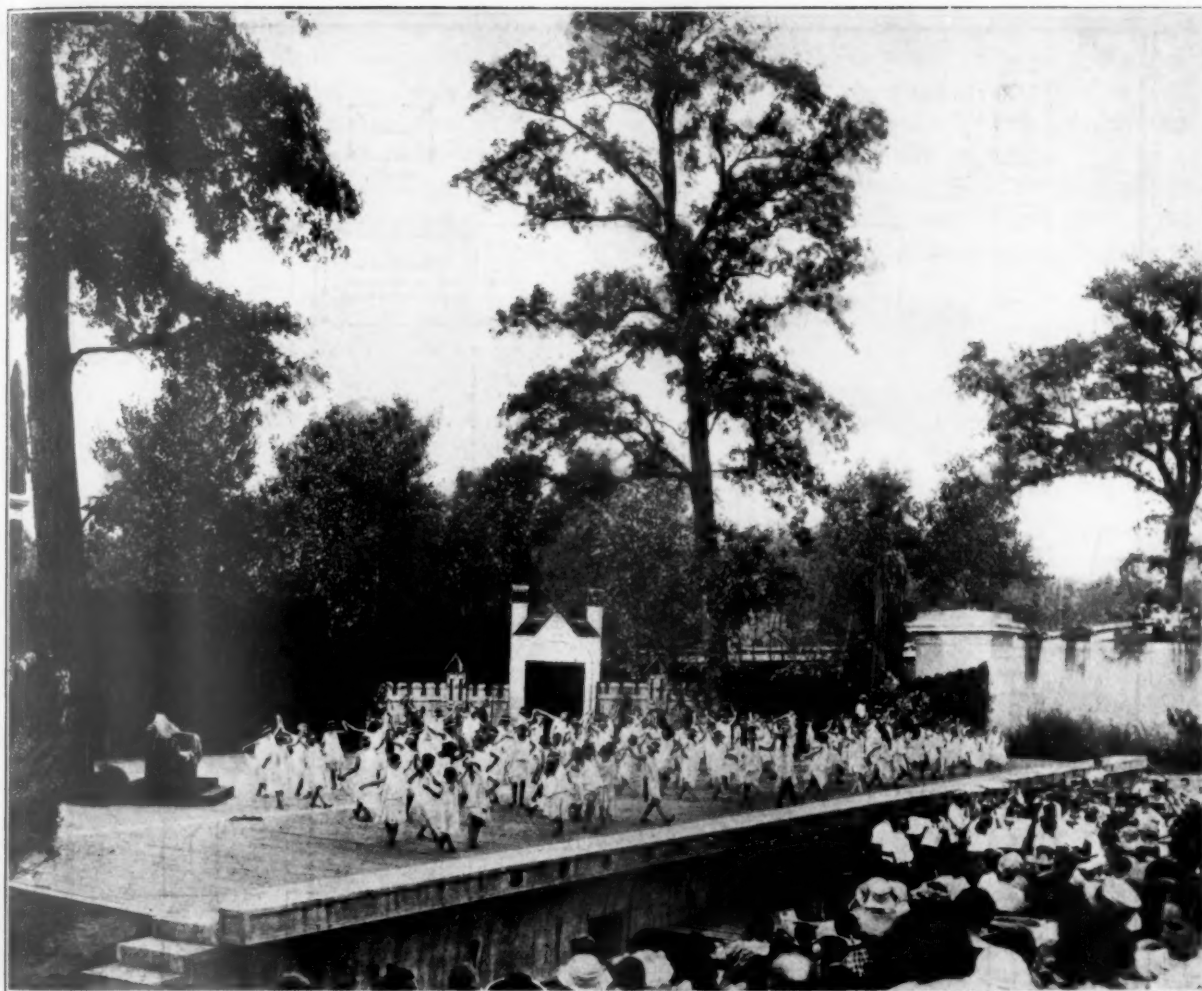
In last summer's Festival the twenty-two exhibition tents—snow-white, each one flying the American flag, were ranged around the central athletic field against a background of trees. In the large field, which was enclosed by a heavy cable fence, the athletic events were outlined. There were the lanes for the dashes marked by two-foot high iron pegs, each having an eye at the



One of the events in the St. Louis Municipal Playground Festival.

top through which the long strings were threaded from lane to lane. There were the loads of sand dumped on huge squares of canvas ready for the jump events. There were the spaces run off around the edge of the field for the Dodgeball, Endball and Volleyball championships.

The baseball diamonds, tennis courts, net handball courts, spaces for quoit pitching and for kite flying were in other sections of the park. The field was so definitely planned, the events and games so clearly outlined and organized that every participant knew ahead of time where to go, what to do, when to do it.



ST. LOUIS MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL.

All the orders of the day were on a blue print and each play director was furnished with a copy as well as a field plan. The Play Festival, back of the scenes, was accordingly run on military lines, with military efficiency.

When things started in the morning and the Junior Baseball teams of old St. Louis got to battling it out there in Forest Park for the boys' championship of the city, rooting for the World Series was a frost compared to the equator heat of the enthusiasm of the spectators lined up by the thousand around each game. It was the same with the Senior Boy's Championship and with the Girls' Championship. By the way the final score of the girls was 15-14. Applauding crowds stirred around each event in every section of the field.

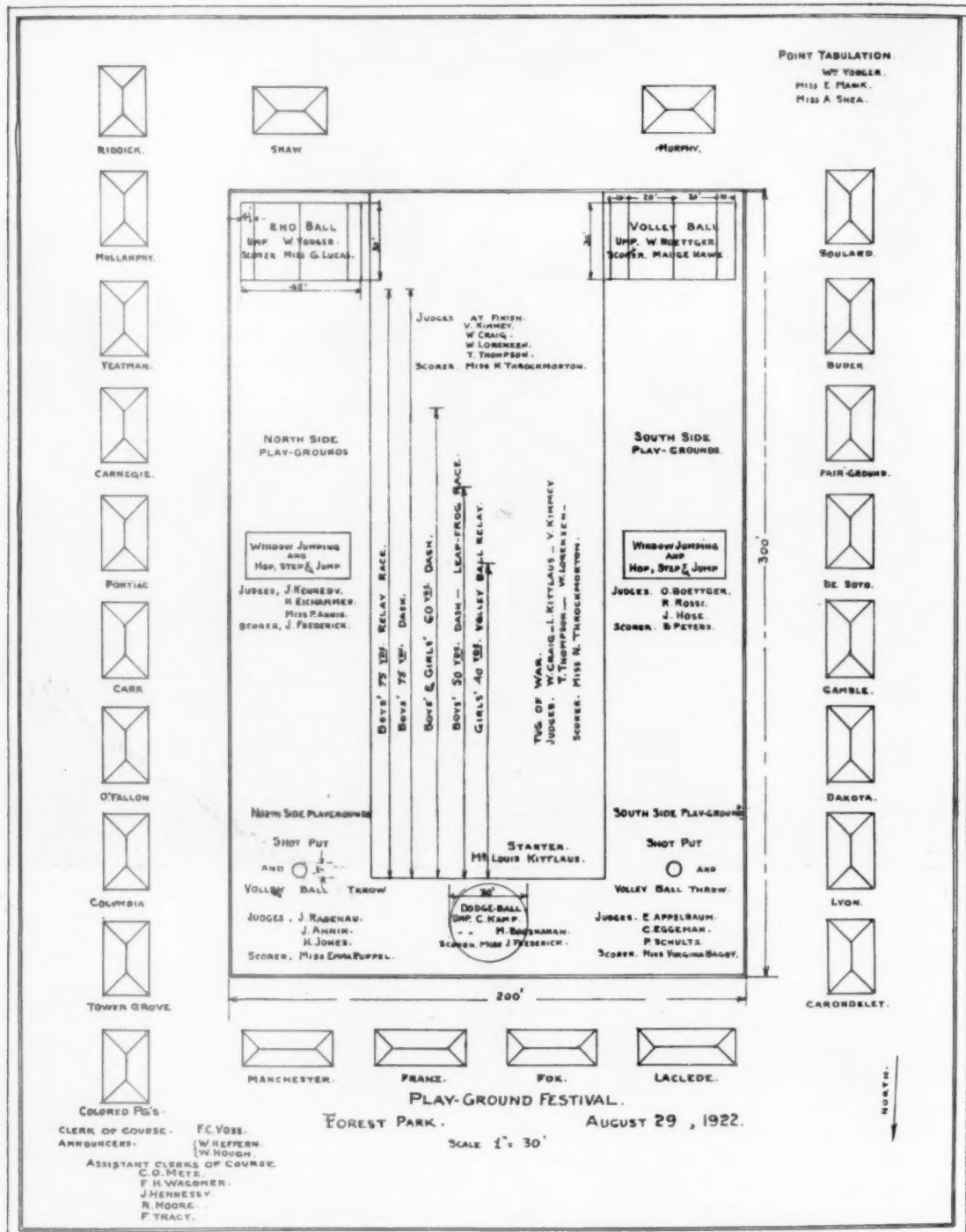
After dinner, at two o'clock came the championship athletic events between the winners of the sectional contests in the central field. The events for colored participants had been held here in the

morning; the white events finished at four o'clock.

Then everybody hastened to the Open Air Municipal Theatre, for the most important part in the day's events—the pageant *Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs* in which 900 children took part.

This was the eighth annual production of the staff and the children of the thirty municipal playgrounds of St. Louis. These delightful entertainments began eight years ago when it was planned to give ten pantomimes, one each year, and at the end of the decade to repeat the productions as given during the first ten years. By this plan the Division of Parks and Recreation hopes to interest the people who ten years before as children took part in the same performance. Thus the future citizens' interest and active support of the development of the playground of St. Louis may be assured.

"The pageant was arranged and directed by



LAYOUT OF GROUNDS FOR ST. LOUIS, MO., PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL.

Rodowe H. Abeken, who is superintendent of the municipal playgrounds of St. Louis. The pantomime was given in three acts and the music was provided by a military band. From the first garden scene when the tiny fairy queen appears on the enormous stage to the last gorgeous massing of color in the king's garden where Snow

White, through the ministrations of the fairy queen, is restored to her father and an admiring and devoted court rejoices, the stage is filled with masses of brightly dressed children representing the various playgrounds each of which contributes its own dance. At night with the spot lights on the charming costumes of the children, with the

wonderful old trees hanging over the stage, and the moon and the stars above, the picture is one of the greatest beauty. The music, the colors, and the dances blend in an indescribable effect and the thousands of spectators who have come out from the city and paid their admission indicate their appreciation by generous applause.

The interest which the people of St. Louis

pantomime was the dance of grief after the apparent death of Snow White. The girls who took part in this dance were former playground girls whose interest in playground work still remains though all of them are now working.

The presence of these girls in the program as well as the evident enjoyment which every child on the stage showed, demonstrated the natural



have in this beautiful culmination of the playground season was shown by the fact that the audience of fourteen thousand sat through a hot summer afternoon with the sun pouring down on many of them while the numerous dances and scenes of the pantomime slowly unfolded. A second performance was given in the evening.

One of the most charming dances in the whole

way in which this gorgeous production had developed out of the activities of the summer's playground work. A playground system which can with comparatively little effort produce so perfect a spectacle year after year is deserving of much praise."

The first Festival play was Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

Norfolk Considers Its Colored Citizens

GENEVIEVE FOX

Last year Norfolk, Virginia, voted \$5000 from municipal funds in order that the colored people of that city might have a community health and recreation center. A city appropriation for a community center is, to be sure, no longer unusual enough to be exciting; but in a city appropriation of this size for recreation among colored people is exciting. In fact it is probably unique.

There are some other unusual things about this



center. To begin with the building has a past incongruously in contrast with its present. It used to be an Old Folk's home for the colored people of Norfolk. But it was so big that there weren't old folks enough to fill it, while there were plenty of children and young people ready and willing to fill it to capacity. Today the old people occupy a building more appropriate to their numbers and the ex-Old Folk's-Home is a much noisier and livelier place than any other building in the neighborhood.

Soon after the new director arrived he paid a call on the editor of one of the city's leading newspapers to see if he could get a little publicity for the activities that were being organized. The editor became so interested that he has been running two or three columns a week regularly ever since about the clubs and classes and entertainments of

the colored inhabitants of Norfolk. But he did not stop at writing about the Center; he decided that he wanted to do something to help.

"I'm interested in newsboys," he told the director, "If you'll round up all the colored newsboys you can find in the city, I'll give a party for them." Thereupon an invitation was broad-casted among the colored newsies. Did they accept? Well, there are supposed to be one hundred and thirty-five colored newsboys in Norfolk, but on the night of the party one hundred and fifty came. However, no embarrassing questions were asked, for there was plenty of ice cream to go round.

Ever since the night of the party those boys have made the center their special gathering place. Every one of the hundred and fifty and some of their friends have enrolled in a Newsboys' Club. As soon as they have sold their evening papers, which are now given out at the center, back they come to play games, box, wrestle and otherwise exhibit prowess. Another night weekly there are free movies. The club is wholly self-governing, the boys electing five counselors who in turn employ a city manager to administer the affairs of Newsboy Town in imitation of the local city government.

Next in popularity to the newsboys' club ranks the Radio Club. A room has been set aside on the top floor of the building for installing and experimenting with radio apparatus, and another room on the second floor is fitted up as a radio library. The club plans to make itself an asset



to the community by providing a series of radio concerts during the winter.

Several clubs for working girls, a mother's club and a ukulele club are other groups which help to keep the center noisy and busy. Gradually the building is coming to be used as a meeting place for the various civic and social organizations among the colored people of Norfolk. One night the Mignonette Social Club is giving a



Rest room for negro employees at the Hempstead Steel Works of the Carnegie Steel Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.

party. On another night the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance is deliberating. Again the Hod-carriers' Union is holding one of its business meetings.

But this center is not only a center of good times, it is also a center of good health; for a clinic is conducted there three times a week. This clinic claims for itself the distinction of being the only one in the country operated by a staff of colored physicians. Fifteen doctors and six nurses are kept busy, for the number of cases treated averages three hundred a month. A special nurse is employed to visit the homes of tubercular patients and give bedside care and advice. Pre-natal treatment and a training course for mid-wives are important features of the work. All the doctors volunteer their services, the only charge to patients being a twenty-five cent registration fee; and even this is waived in some cases. Most of the furniture and instruments for the clinic were provided through the efforts of the Mother's Club. The director of the City Bureau of Public Welfare testifies to an appreciable lowering of the colored death rate since the clinic has been in operation.

Norfolk's colored community center grew out of a club for colored soldiers during the World

War. When the War stopped the need for the club went right on, and so did the interest of the people concerned. An enthusiastic and hard-working Community Service Committee crystallized this interest into a building and a city appropriation.

Indianapolis Provides for Its Colored Citizens

WALTER JARVIS

Superintendent of Public Parks
Indianapolis, Indiana

A few years ago, the Board of Park Commissioners of Indianapolis secured for recreational purposes a large area of land in a growing neighborhood made up largely of colored people. This area, known as Douglass Park, was opened in 1921, and since the date of its opening it has demonstrated conclusively how eagerly the colored population of our city welcome opportunities for recreation.

It was thought best, in planning the park, to place the playground at the extreme east which rises to a high hill. Every kind of apparatus available was placed on this playground—slides, swings, merry-go-rounds, may poles, and various kinds of equipment. Since the greater part of the population was made up of colored people, it was thought advisable to place colored instructors and play leaders on the ground. In this connection, it has been encouraging to note that the colleges and training schools for negroes throughout the state are realizing the need for trained leaders and are providing courses in recreation.

To meet the needs of the adults, tennis courts and two basketball diamonds were laid out. Lighted horseshoe courts are a never failing source of delight to the men.

One of the finest and largest pools of the Middle West has been placed in the park at a cost of seventy thousand dollars. It has an area of twenty thousand square feet and is so constructed that seventy per cent of the water area is outside of guard ropes. The maximum depth is nine feet; eighty-five per cent of the area is wadable, being not over five feet in depth. In other words, only fifteen per cent of the area of the pool is too deep for an ordinary person to



POOL FOR COLORED PEOPLE, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

wade in, and the entire pool is deep enough for swimming purposes.

One advantage of the shape of the pool is that the area of deep water is cut down, thereby reducing the volume of water needed to fill it. Another advantage lies in the fact that the waders can be segregated. In one period of the day, for example, one end of the pool may be used by women, the other end, by men. One section can be made shallower for small children. There are four chutes which are continually flushed by flowing water, two swings, two high dives, two guard ropes, and revolving rafts. As sixteen hundred lockers are provided, sixteen hundred people can enjoy the pool at the same time.

The colored Young Men's Christian Association has become so enthusiastic over the work that is being done that special arrangements have been made whereby all the boys who wish it may receive swimming instruction free of charge.

Recreation Helps Make Memphis a Good City to Live in

The Chamber of Commerce of Memphis in a bulletin issued recently stresses recreational facilities and resources as one of the reasons why the city has forged ahead.

"Beginning at the top with a comprehensive

city planning program," the report points out, "the city's civic development has embraced every phase of activity calculated to build up a loyal, sturdy citizenship. A city tax of 15 mills produces a total revenue of \$365,000 a year for park and playground maintenance."

Municipal music development has been stimulated through the building by the City of Memphis and Shelby County of a \$2,000,000 auditorium seating 12,500 people where conventions, public concerts, and a season of grand opera will be held. The city gives financial assistance to the music committee of the Chamber of Commerce which arranges an annual series of concerts and recitals.

There are 855 acres of highly improved parks, the two largest being connected by a double drive speedway, eleven miles in length. Two of the parks each contain nine hole public golf courses, and the demand for this form of sport has made it necessary for the city to seek a site for an eighteen hole course. The park system has made it possible for the city to foster amateur athletics on a stupendous scale, and every form of outdoor sport is enjoyed under the leadership of the city recreation department, which cooperates with the park commission. Baseball, soccer, football, basketball, tennis, swimming, rowing and field events are among the activities.

The Tri-State fair ground containing one hundred eleven acres is said to have the largest municipal swimming pool in America, accommodating thirty thousand people in one day.

A Home-Made Indoor Playground That's Cheap

JOHN H. CHASE

Supervisor, Playground Association, Youngstown, Ohio

Why not a cheap home-made winter playground in your cellar or attic for the youngsters? Winter and early spring are the hardest seasons in the year for mothers to take care of the little folks under twelve years old while they are not in school. The weather is apt to be cold and stormy, so that the children cannot be out-of-doors for any length of time, darkness sets in early, the means for entertainment become exhausted, and the children often strain the nerves of the most patient.

Realizing this, I tried to build a cheap, rough-and-tumble playground one afternoon, and I have thought others might be interested in the ease, and slight expense with which it can be done.

Most basements have for their ceiling exposed sleepers or floor joints, and these are just the thing for attaching apparatus and doing away with expensive, clumsy framework.

Little children are especially pleased with swings, sandgardens and trapeze.

To make the swings buy a "hank" (or coil) of sash cord (size No. 8 or 9) at a hardware store. This looks like ordinary clothes line but is ten times stronger, and will cost about a dollar and a half. A coil will be enough for two swings and a trapeze. At the same time buy size number 801 screw hooks for 20 cents. Put the hooks in the joists of the basement or attic ceiling from 14 inches to two feet apart, and turn the open side of the hook away from the swing, *e. g.*, at right angles to the direction in which the swing flies so that the rope cannot jump off the hook. Make the swing seat of any board that is about the house. The best size is six inches wide, 14 inches long, and one inch thick. Bore holes or saw notches in the ends of the seat to keep the rope in place. The swing is now ready for all kinds of fun with only half an hour's work having been spent. In fact it is so much fun that the children will squabble over turns and you will probably want to build one or two more swings, or else tell the spectators to count 50 swoops and then let the next child have his or her turn. The swing will look weak,

but it is really strong—if the man who made it is incredulous, let him try it himself.

Now for a sand box. Any wooden packing box around the house will be suitable. We found one which was two feet wide, four feet long and two feet deep. Cleats were nailed over the cracks, and on the front side the box was made one foot high, so the child could sit outside and reach in to play. Any contractor's supply company will send a sack of sea shore or lake shore sand for about 60 cents and this is enough for the entire sandbin. Be sure and get the seashore or lake shore sand, as the other is dusty and dirty. Wet the sand so that it will hold its shape for caves, castles and artificial lakes, and children up to eleven years old will play in it by the hour. Those who have been to Atlantic City remember the wonderful shapes and figures made in the sand by even adult artists.

Lastly the trapeze. Saw an old broom from the handle, and use the handle for a crossbar with the sash cord tied to each end, and reaching up to the ceiling. On this the children will "chin up," "skin the cat," and do all kinds of stunts. If an old mattress can be put underneath they will learn more dangerous and skillful tricks.

Thus a playground for the winter with three of the features that children love most, can be built for only two or three dollars in our own homes, and anyone whether mechanically inclined or not can install it with two hour's work, a hammer and a saw. It may look crude, but will be sturdy and strong, and give the youngsters the happiest kind of times.

Education is not, of course, limited to the field of politics. It is not the sole business of schools to teach people how to vote or how to conduct public affairs if they are elected to office. The business of education is to train young people to do well whatever they are destined to do in the human situation in which they find themselves. Out of our schools and colleges must come better trading, better preaching, better writing of stories and better reading of them, better friendships, better songs, better games, better plays and better appreciation of them, better weaving of cloth, better making of roads and automobiles and wiser using of them; in a word, better doing of whatever men and women do in the usual course of living.

ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN

Handicraft for Children*

HOW THE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION DEVELOPS THE ART

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: The Sun's recent quotation from L. P. Jack's article in *The Churchman* on "Citizenship and Art," reminds one of the success of the arts and crafts promoted throughout the United States by the Playground and Recreation Association of America. The handicrafts on hundreds of American playgrounds and in numerous community centers not only help to prevent children from drifting into lives of irresponsibility and mischief but also teach a love of beauty, cultivate dexterity in producing attractive and useful articles and reveal avenues of self-expression. Thousands of young men and women today owe their capacity for the finer things of life and for good citizenship to the organized playground and recreation activities of our communities.

The qualities of workmanship and respect for another's achievements of which Mr. Jack's writes were demonstrated on the playgrounds of Chicago last summer. Artificial flowers, kites and paper lanterns were made in large numbers by the children. Beauty in design, neat workmanship and originality were encouraged. The climax of the lantern-making contest was an evening parade in which six hundred lanterns, varying in size from one with the dimensions of a cantaloupe to a huge one eight feet high and six feet in diameter supported by four boys, were carried by the proud makers. An illuminated paper steamship, a lighthouse with a red flashlight at the top and a statue of Liberty were the other products of the youthful Chicago artificers. Tin handicrafts were very popular on the St. Louis playgrounds. Fern dishes, baskets and doll houses completely furnished with chairs, tables and beds are some of the things which the St. Louis children have wrought out of cast-off tin.

May the tribe of playground handicraftsmen increase! As they grow to manhood and womanhood the creative interests of these children will stand them in good stead in this age when the automatic machine gives so much spare time for self development and enjoyment.

W. W. PANGBURN

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The Leipziger Lectures*

For many years the course of free public lectures inaugurated in 1889 by Dr. Henry M. Leipziger was known as the "Leipziger Lectures." This people's university, as he used to call it, is an apt illustration of Emerson's definition of an "institution"—that it is the "lengthened shadow of a man." It has extended now five years beyond his own life, with promise of continued lengthening. In the first year, lectures were given in six centres, with a total attendance of 22,149. At present the annual attendance is approximately 500,000 at eighty centres.

Dr. Leipziger, himself a graduate of the old Free Academy that became the City College, was an early apostle of adult education. The system which he developed, and which is being successfully continued along the lines which he planned, differs from other somewhat similar systems in that it is absolutely free, the city meeting the entire expense of maintenance. It seeks to bring within the school year the cultural influences which but for these lectures would be inaccessible to many. "To justify by the wise use of time the shortening of the hours of labor."

He not only gave nearly thirty years to this pioneer work, but left a bequest at his death for lectures in this continuing institution, and this, by added gifts of his family, has been made a memorial public lectureship, the first lecture of which is to be given at Town Hall tonight by James M. Beck. Notable as this monument to Dr. Leipziger is, the city can even more beneficently lengthen this shadow of a man by making appropriations adequate to carrying on more widely and effectively this great undertaking in adult education.

* Reprinted from the New York Times by permission.

Once upon a time, so the story goes, a man in Kansas set about building a saw mill.

Most assiduously did he devote himself to those things which are essential unto a saw mill. He dammed a creek, built a building, procured machinery.

Finally the thing was done—the wheels ready, the belts on, the saws in place. He turned on the power and around they went with well oiled precision.

He put in a log and the machinery stopped. With all its buzzing and busy-ness, his mill had developed just enough power to turn its own wheels around.—*The Compass*

Parks and Playgrounds

III

HENRY V. HUBBARD

Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard
University, Member of Firm of Olmsted
Brothers, Brookline, Mass.

LOCATION OF RECREATION UNITS IN THE CITY PLAN—"RECREATIONAL ZONING"

Up to very recent times, the location of parks and playgrounds in our cities, and their size, shape, and character, have been largely matters of chance. The public generally had no clear idea of the function or of the importance of these things for themselves much less any notion of their place in a complete city plan. Land has frequently been bought where it was cheapest, or taken where it was given, with little or no relation of one piece to another. The construction of a connecting boulevard, looking well on plan and pleasing the casual visitor, was sometimes considered quite enough to turn these fortuitous units into a "park system."

Recently, however, we have more generally begun to think in terms of allotting the land of the community in each case to its most desirable use, of restricting some areas wholly or largely to industry and business, some to residence, some to recreation,—in other words, to use our accepted term (more useful than accurate), Zoning, to which I shall refer again.

On account of their haphazard development, therefore, the present amount and kind of outdoor recreation facilities vary enormously between different cities. No general laws can be safely deduced, solely by general compilation of existing data, as to the relation of total park area to population, as to the proper distribution of parks or playgrounds, as to optimum size and shape of the various kinds of park, and so on. Such local information is valuable, but only when accompanied by a careful local interpretation and criticism in each case, as in the Cleveland Recreation Survey report of 1920.

Planning for the Future

One great difficulty with which the park system designer must struggle is that he is not planning for the present but for the future. He must base his work on a prediction of how great

the population is going to be, what it is going to want, where in the city it will be densest, what will be high-cost and what low-cost neighborhoods, which way business will move, and so on.

Here appears a great advantage of treating the park and boulevard design as a part of the general zoning and transportation scheme. Some stabilizing of the different uses, some steering of the growth, is thus possible. The park designer has in this way a recognized intention of the whole community and not merely his own prediction on which to base his allocation of the different recreation facilities. And his work in turn aids the realization of the zoning plan, for the more completely we can organize *all* the elements of the physical layout of our community with one scheme of development in mind, the more likely the community is to develop accordingly.

Sometimes Business and Pleasure May Combine

But with the determination of a park system, even with the fixing of a reservation system, the community has not discharged all its duty to its citizens as regards outdoor recreation. There may be a large by-product of recreational value to be got from public lands devoted primarily to other purposes. The use for park purposes of the specially protected and regulated lands draining into the reservoir of a water supply system is well illustrated in the Middlesex Falls near Boston and Mohansic Lake Reservation in the Croton Watershed near New York. In many cases park uses may be permitted in municipal forests, as they are in our National Forests. In Massachusetts, for instance, Fitchburg, Walpole and Petersham have forests so used. Sometimes all these uses, park, forest, watershed protection, may be combined in one area. Much landscape beauty may be produced with no sacrifice of timber values. To put valley-loving trees and hill-loving trees where each is best suited is both good forestry and good landscape design. But some little concession by the forester to the

recreation-seeker is often justified. To cut in accordance with landscape units and with regard to views, to leave, for the esthetic effect entirely, certain wooded areas along rivers or roads or on points of lookout, brings more gain in beauty than loss in lumber.

The public-owned agricultural area, now beginning to be discussed, the so-called "productive park," can offer good recreational opportunities. There is even an optimist who would combine recreational facilities with the operation of a sewage disposal plant. The roadside improvement movement is another important application of the idea of producing recreational values by making public uses as beautiful as possible.

And provisions for public recreation might go even farther afield. In the present rapidly growing movement against the bill-board evil we see the beginning of a public feeling that the community has the right to regulate certain private property for the esthetic and so the recreational good of the public, as for instance, in the case of the Mohawk Trail. It is not absurd to suppose that on some future better day, by preservation of bits of woodland, enframing of good views, sometimes by securing the admission of the public to certain private areas,—all of this naturally by private action under pressure of public opinion,—the country roadsides and agricultural areas generally may be made of much greater recreational value without losing, in total, anything of their economic value to their private holders. And so the public areas specifically set aside for recreation will be relieved of part of their burden.

A Hope for Greater Dispersal of Population

So far we have been proceeding as if we thought that the city was to continue growing indefinitely by accretions about its own center, and that anything we could do to foster that growth and speed it by diminishing its disadvantages was a good thing. Personally I think that the curse of the big city is its bigness and the consequent impossibility of getting enough of all the things which a man lives by within reasonable reach of each man. I agree with the garden city advocate and call it good city planning so to zone a city and to regulate and add to its street system that eventually it will prove better for factories, and after them residences and stores, to start up in a new place, removed from the original city and separated from it by a considerable stretch of agricultural and forest land.

In the ideal regional plan there should be not one overgrown city but a cluster of communities.

When you come to discuss how far apart these communities should be spaced in the state and in the nation, you are rather in the realm of roseate dreams, but surely there should be left enough agricultural land between them (or rather in total relation to their populations, for of course they cannot be equi-spaced) to supply their needs for such products as are best locally grown.

RELATION OF RECREATION AREAS TO LAND VALUES

In deciding whether a certain recreation area should be located in a particular spot and what the size and shape of the land which is to be set aside for this recreation purpose, we have to consider all these various factors which we have already discussed, which will tell us how available this piece of land will be for this specific recreation purpose. On the other hand, we have to consider the market value of this piece of land, that is to say, how useful this piece of land is for any and all other purposes.

Other things being equal, then, the recreation area seeks the cheapest land, and it is a fortunate thing in the case of parks that rough and broken topography, narrow river valleys and such kinds of ground are suited to parks but unsuited to ordinary residential or commercial development. Moreover a park may be beautified by keeping open a water course and so caring for flood water which might be a great obstacle to residential development. And similarly a place which could be reached with sewers only with great expense might not be the worse park for that reason, though impracticable for homes. In the case of playgrounds however no such fortunate combination of circumstances occurs. The playground belongs in the midst of a densely populated area, and land in a densely populated area is expensive. We are generally agreed that it is essential for the well-being of the community that there shall be one playground for every quarter mile radius circle which can be struck in the thickly settled area, although some considerable departure from regularity in the location of these playgrounds is reasonable and is indeed usually forced by other considerations. And when it has been determined that a certain location is on the whole the most efficient for a playground, and the least efficient for other uses, which can be found within the area which must

be served by a playground, then at this point the other uses must yield to the playground, because the playground is essential and the other uses are not essential, or at least can be served nearly as well somewhere else. In other words, the city must pay whatever the land costs to produce a playground, and this reasoning has been accepted, as witness: Seward Park in the City of New York, which cost the city between two and three millions of dollars, having an area of four small blocks.

The same general reasoning applies, of course, to parks, although in their locations there is usually a greater range of choice. They must exist somewhere, and when the best location has been found, then the park must be created, or at any rate the land acquired, even if the development of the land as a park must be postponed. There is of course a credit item in the city's accounts that may go far to offset the price paid for the park. After the park is established, the land abutting upon it is increased in value, which value comes back to the city in increased taxes; and in addition to this localized increase in values on account of the visible and obvious advantages which accrue to the abutting property, there will also be a general rise of values because the park has raised the tone of the city as a whole. The local benefits are less noticeable in the case of playgrounds. Indeed in some of the more desirable residential areas the presence of the playground is considered to lower the value of the abutting property, as the exclusion of playgrounds by zoning ordinance from most restricted residence districts in several cases would go to show. But wherever a playground is necessary, it can not be denied that its presence raises the value of the whole neighborhood. Moreover, in the case of a congested neighborhood the land value increase is both local and general, because however noisy the playground may be it is less bad than a street and more airy and open than the blocks of tenements which it has replaced.

It is not the business of this paper to discuss the financial, legal, and administrative aspects of recreation development. We might, however, remind ourselves here of the fact that these recreation areas are much more for the benefit of the future than for the present generation, and that therefore it is fair that a considerable portion of the cost should fall on the future citizens of a community. That is, it is fair that the cost of such development should be met by bonds

which may run for a considerable term of years. For the same reasons it is desirable to buy, now while it is cheap, and before it is spoiled, land for the park use of future generations, and to charge it to the future generations by means of bonds. With a comprehensive city plan there is some assurance that these lands will be where they will be needed.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE IN GETTING FURTHER DATA

Now I started by saying that this paper was partly a compilation of the obvious and partly a confession of ignorance. The obviousness has been obvious enough. The ignorance there may still be hope for.

As to the general theory of the design of playgrounds and especially parks as units in the city or the regional plan, this will depend partly on what we believe in as the end and aim of such a plan. As I have said, I believe that the ideal is not the forever expanding single city, but rather the neighborhood of towns, each one near enough to the outdoors to be a place fit for a whole and self-respecting man to live in. As to the particular classification of recreation areas which I used, that is for convenience only and could be changed, or the lines between the units shifted without much affecting the general theory.

As to the detailed facts, we want more reports from those who know what activities are actually being carried on in parks,—what is popular, what is effective, what new requirements have arisen, like the change which the automobile has brought. We also want knowledge as to the actual sizes which are required for the various activities of the playgrounds and the various recreational services of the parks, and how many people can be accommodated in these areas, and engaged in these activities, at one time. Then we want to know what kind of people,—age, sex, race,—enjoy these recreations, and also from how far these people come. I made a suggestion like this as to playgrounds back in 1914. The kind of information in the Cleveland Recreation Survey of 1920 is what we need. Such information can be secured, and must be, if we are to proceed otherwise than by each one of us modifying by guess for his new design some figures which someone else arrived at by guess for his design in another place. These figures cannot be got by the light of nature; they can be obtained only by taking counts and asking questions

(Continued on page 576)

Education for Right Living*

J. PRENTICE MURPHY

Executive Secretary, Children's Bureau, Philadelphia

To express, to create, to give out, are inherent human qualities and these qualities lead to that inevitable variety of experiences that makes up the individual and collective life of any community. It is more essential to an individual's own development that he live in an untidy way, responsible for what he does, than to live in absolute order, yet protesting all the time against his surroundings. It is more essential that a person feel the greatest freedom in the making of imperfect choices and selections for which he is responsible than to live under a forced environment, unsought and at heart unaccepted. The ill-kept neighborhood, with dirty streets, lack of beauty, and other distracting things, is just as likely to develop the personal initiative and responsibility which the world needs as to have these same people living under better conditions to which they have not been educated and against which they continually protest.

We must, therefore, think out more protective and preventive processes, so that instead of talking about social case work for great masses of human beings we will emphasize the preventive elements in lives and communities so as to free more and more people from needing the services of these super-specialists.

The world has had an object lesson on the mighty influence of education in shaping life and ideals, or in other words, "in making for citizenship." It was the influence of the school and of the college with their doctrine of "Will to Power" which transformed the ideals of the German people in one generation, and we have good authority for believing that a thoroughly nationalized system of education has been utilized to shape the ideals of the people of Japan. The thinking public, pushing these facts to the logical conclusion, may well ask: "What may we not accomplish in the cause of good citizenship if education will concentrate on directing the minds of the youth of the nation toward the importance of spiritual values in life as against the material? If one generation of educational propaganda can result in complete national deterioration, what can it not accomplish if directed towards national uplift?"

* Extracts from address given at National Conference of Social Work, June, 1922, Providence, R. I.

The problem of education is being recognized as the problem of citizenship in its fullest sense—citizenship in the community and in the nation. It must be clear that not upon the school alone falls the responsibility of shaping the citizenship of tomorrow.

It is what happens ultimately and constantly within the family that makes or breaks our civilization. Each day the world is made anew through its childhood. Each day countless opportunities are offered to us through our children, let us catch their love for the beautiful, their love of sport, of play, or art, of truth and justice, the delicate fineness of all their sensibilities and capabilities, the numerous creative resources they have within them; then let us use their talents for that newer, finer life which is the great objective of social work. We must not use child welfare as a narcotic. Our accomplishments must not be solely in our dreams. They must be actual facts. America has a very different attitude toward its children from that of almost all other countries. This is fertile soil, and how rich will be the harvest if only we use the soil in the right way.

Boy's Playground Plea Wins

Young Seamon, who resides at 11 Arlington Place, Brooklyn, appealed to the Estimate Board to provide the boys and girls in his neighborhood with an opportunity to become better citizens by purchasing as playground for them a small piece of property on the south side of Fulton Street, below Classon Avenue. The property, known as Rusurban, is assessed at \$65,000. He said it would give air, sunlight, and a "touch of nature" to the children, and a resting place for their mothers.

It was objected that the property was too small and that a hill would have to be removed to make it available. Young Seamon disagreed with this report, saying that the children wanted the hill retained because it reminded them of the country where they spent summer vacations.

Acting Mayor Hulburt and other board members were noticeably impressed with the lad's arguments, and they agreed to take up the question of assessments for acquiring the land in the committee of the whole. Young Seamon was then escorted to the rostrum to shake hands with the acting Mayor and other board members.

* Courtesy of the *New York Sun*.

Neighborhood Organization*

VIOLET WILLIAMS DUFFY

Formerly Superintendent of Recreation, York, Pennsylvania

York, Pennsylvania, a town of about 60,000, with a budget of \$6,000 wanted to establish a year-round recreation system. The budget was entirely too small for a program of any size. We had no equipment, no facilities of any kind,—simply leadership. It seemed to me that it was impossible to do anything unless the people themselves were interested, so I began surveying the town, seeking different locations where we might have recreation centers. The way we proceeded to organize was by first enlisting the children. I gathered them around the location where I saw a recreation center was needed, and taught them folk dancing, and in that way the thing was brought before the public, and the mothers became interested. After play leaders had been trained they were sent to different parts of the city and they all gathered the children together and held demonstrations. We told them the first night if they wanted this kind of thing they would have to organize and give me the right kind of support. The first demonstration was in one of the largest wards of the city. It was held in a large park. We began with community singing, had a band concert, and then the children's demonstration. The people sat on the benches, and I outlined the idea of the neighborhood centers, and told them that if they wanted one they might help me get the community organized so we might have play in their own vicinity. I told them the children wanted it and had been working hard for it. They said they were anxious for it, and after a second meeting we organized. I had, before going to this meeting, interviewed leaders of various kinds in the vicinity, and that, I found, proved to be of the greatest help. We had people there who were already interested. They already knew the big idea and could help in organizing, and made good material for officers. We elected officers and arranged to hold meetings once a month. The schoolhouses were locked and not used for public entertainments. That had to come gradually. We met in the parks and in people's homes. In the fall we had the superintendent of the school board come and address us, and by taking the school authorities

into our confidence we gained their interest and finally had the use of the school buildings.

An Experience with a "Gang"

In one community was a district where the gypsy element prevailed. The children came from homes made up of basket makers. They did not know what cooperation meant. There were very bad gangs. I read in the papers that the gangs in the park were destructive, and I went to the park and found they were disturbing the activities and destroying the equipment. So I went up there one night. I came upon a gang of boys from 17 to 33 years of age, and from 150 to 250 pounds in weight. They were hanging on the swings like monkeys. I looked up and said, "Oh, fellows, I am glad you are here. I want to leave, but I'm afraid to go because some of those bad gangs have been destroying the swings. I am glad you are here because I want to ask you to take care of things. If any of those gangs come around here, will you see that they are put off?" They looked astonished, but they were not unfriendly. After I got to talking with them, I went over with them the possibilities of this center and told them about athletic teams, and said that if these gangs could be kept off the city might do something big for us. I asked them to come on the next night and help me supervise the place. I told them I needed their strength. They came. They were crude, and it took time to do anything with them. They wanted to stay all night, but when I turned off the lights I told them to see that the little boys got off the park. Well, they got them off, but it was hard on the little boys! It took about ten days to get them to any point of politeness where I could work with them with any good effect. They would come up to the school door, but would not come in. They stood around on the outside and thought they were not welcome. They had been chased away from everywhere else, and they couldn't believe anybody could want them inside. I went out and invited them to come in and play basketball. They came. It was pretty difficult at first. They wore lumbermen's shoes. They shuffled, and were rude.

* Stenographic report of address given at the Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 10, 1922.

When they saw I wanted to say something they would say, "Listen, the lady's goin' to talk." Finally I got them into a room with a cement floor and gave them a basket ball. I shut the door and left them to themselves. When I came back they had the lights turned off and were kicking the basket ball around the floor. They did not know what basket ball meant. They wore heavy coats and sweaters and rough shoes, and couldn't play on anything but a cement floor, but we allowed them to play there. Gradually they began to wash their faces and put on clean shirts, and finally they learned to play the game and had a real basket ball team. They got uniforms, one piece at a time. I scheduled a game for them in another part of the town. When I arrived I found them all on the outside of the building. When they saw me coming I heard them say, "Here she comes. She'll let us in." They did not have the courage to walk into a building. Now they are a unit of the Neighborhood Civic Association. They are organized into an athletic association.

This Neighborhood Civic Association of which they are a part is quite a typical one. It carries on community activities. They have had their second annual banquet, opened with community singing. They built their own playground. It has been very interesting to watch the organization develop. I do not see how we could have made a success in York without these Neighborhood Civic Associations. I would rather do without a city association than try to work without these neighborhood organized groups. We have one in every park. Of course they are not perfect, but they are growing, and doing better all the time. They need guidance, especially at first. They are the people themselves. They have lectures, concerts, entertainments of various other kinds, by children and adults, home nursing classes, arts and crafts, civic discussions, and things to interest the whole family, not alone the

children. That is the plan on which York is organized.

Q. How do these neighborhood organizations work in the upper class neighborhoods?

A. We have one district where we have what might be called "upper class" folks. The organization there is in perfect contrast to the one I described. They take part in church affairs. They put over a big program during Children's Week, during which they asked the other civic associations to take one night each. They had an educational program, addresses on neighborhood activities, and demonstrations.

Q. How about the boys under seventeen?

A. They are not as hard to deal with, and that is why I did not speak of them. We have our troubles, as every town has. I spoke of the unusually difficult type of boy and what we had been able to do with him. I will ask my successor in the work at York to answer that question.

Mr. Flagle, York, Pa.—When I went to York I found the neighborhood community association idea had been so thoroughly established that I had no difficulty in finding opportunities to take care of all ages. The boys of about sixteen are so much attached to athletics that we can easily hold them. With the younger boys of course there is the Scout organization, which is used a good deal. We found that our boys had reached a place where they were getting unintentionally selfish, so we planned to have 120 boys go to a summer camp in order to get new ideas. That worked well, and when they came back we had certain definite services for them to perform.

Q. How do you deal with the situation in family work?

A. The Neighborhood Civic Associations at the center hold the families. Whole families come out together and find there activities for every member. Families come together, spend the evening in different parts of the building at various activities, and then go home together.

Beatrice Plumb Hunzicker writes:

"As soon as I know my permanent address, I shall surely renew my subscription to *The Playground Magazine*. I find it of infinite value in my work. I organize recreation in Schools for Delinquent Girls, and if ever a poor soul needed the inspiration of a magazine like yours, I do.

"As a member of a large city system of recreation, I could always find inspiration at the staff meetings, in libraries. But after entering on my new line of recreation work, cut off from talking shop with anyone who understood, coping with one school of delinquents after another. I found myself hanging on to my new *Playground Magazine* as my only friend!"

What Neighborhood Work Means to Wilmington*

CHARLES F. ERNST

Executive Secretary, Community Service, Wilmington, Delaware

What has neighborhood work meant to Wilmington, and what has organization meant to the community recreation program? Before answering these two questions I ought to say that the work in Wilmington was organized not for the sake of neighborhood work, but in order to put through a program of year-round recreation in the city. In Wilmington we have an excellent system of playgrounds in operation for eight or ten weeks in the summer, and our idea of developing Community Service was partly to extend that eight or ten weeks to fifty-two. So the work has been built up with the playgrounds as a basis, as a demonstration, so that the people of Wilmington might understand what we were talking about when we say "all year-round recreation."

Perhaps you have all sat in at large meetings and small meetings, to try to find the idea of a neighborhood, and if so you have probably seen signs of disagreement as to just what a neighborhood is. What is the neighborhood? Can it be defined in geographical terms? For the purpose of our talk, let us confine ourselves to thinking that the people who belong to a neighborhood are those who are served by a certain institution,—in our case the playground,—that anybody belongs in that neighborhood whose children use the playground and the adults the community center. The church says its neighborhood is limited to those who use its parish house, and so on with the various other institutions. You think of people not as living on certain streets, but as boys and girls and men and women who live near enough a particular playground to use it.

Beginning with a Christmas Tree

I will just indicate the steps used to organize our first neighborhood association of which the playground was the basis. We placed a worker on a playground in the congested section of the city for the primary purpose of arousing interest in having a Christmas tree celebration on the

playground. While she was doing this we got in touch with the local councilman and the school board member and secured from them names of active workers in the district around this playground. We gave these names to the playground worker, who visited them in their homes and asked them to come to a meeting. At this meeting we told them that the children had indicated their desire to have a Christmas tree celebration on the playground and we asked them if they would not help satisfy the children's desire in this respect. The decision was made that night in favor of the project. This small meeting adjourned for a week, during which time visits were made by the playground worker to other neighbors and through the children who came to the playground a general call was spread for the meeting.

The newspapers also carried the story of this meeting and the purpose of it. At the meeting the necessary committees were formed to carry through the Christmas tree project. The local playground worker became the executive head of the very informal organization; for two weeks everybody worked hard, and when the event was held the adults were as proud and happy as the children themselves. More publicity was given through the papers when the event was held.

A few days after the Christmas celebration a meeting was called to talk over the event and to decide what to do with the small balance which remained in the treasury. The decision to have a neighborhood association to carry out similar projects in the future in behalf of the children who used the local playground was made at this meeting, temporary officers were elected, and a constitution committee and a nominating committee were appointed by the temporary chairman. A week later another meeting was held to which again the whole neighborhood was invited and a permanent organization formed with the playground worker as secretary. More publicity was given to the formation of this new organization and this served to attract the attention of

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* Stenographic report of address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 10, 1922.

Neighborhood Organization in Syracuse*

MRS. LUCIA L. KNOWLES.

~~Superintendent~~ of Recreation, Syracuse, N. Y.

I am glad to emphasize the human side of neighborhood work, because Syracuse is one of the latest cities to take up winter recreation, or what I like to call indoor recreation, or recreation center work. Secondly, we have had a small budget to work with, very little physical equipment, and the only thing we had enough of was the human element. So I am glad to speak of that.

The playground work in Syracuse is not new, and would compare favorably, I think, with other places of our size. The community work is only a few years old. It was begun in a little old school in a slum section of the city, perhaps the section that needed it most. At any rate, the schoolhouse was so bad you could hardly do any harm to it so the board of education allowed us to use it for a community center. Nothing happened to this building, and now we have five schoolhouses open, and this winter we are going to have eight; for the first time, after three years of talking and planning with one principal, he has finally made up his mind we can carry on club work in his building. Last year when I broached the subject to him, he said, "Come with me," and he showed me thirty-four bullet holes in the glass of his nice new building, made during the summer. "If they do that in the summer, what will they do if we let them inside in the winter," he asked me. I said, "Not a thing, because it will be their own club house." He said in his mind, "She is a very sentimental old woman." Then I wished I were a man! But he is now converted and provided I will see that everything is safeguarded I am going to have my dream come true.

Starting Where the Need Is Greatest

I came in contact with a gang on the street one

* Stenographic report of address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 10, 1922.

day, and began talking to them about boys' clubs, and they said they would like one. That was all that happened because I was not allowed to take them in. One day this summer they said to me, "You were going to have a club." This year I hope to have a place where they can come in and work off a little of their splendid energy. In our little community center we have almost no physical equipment, but we have tried to organize group or club work for every age, with a backing organization of people in the community who are able to do some thinking and helpful work with other members of the community. Our municipal department feels that the people who need this work most are the people who have very little for themselves. The outlying sections of the city where they have the best equipped schools need the community center very much less than the down town sections where school equipment is poor from a recreation point of view. There is where we need this work and that is where we have made starts. It is almost impossible to get backing organizations in these sections. In such a case we try to get a civic organization interested to meet with us and so form a backing group, to study conditions, look after financing, and be generally helpful. And not only are they helpful to us, but we have done wonderful things for many of those people, I believe, because they have seldom before realized the splendid qualities in some of the people in the underprivileged sections of a big city.

I hope the day will come in my community when I may have an expert staff of workers. We have only a few now. I want the supervisor of the playground to become the director of the winter recreation center in the nearest school. He will then know his neighborhood and the neighborhood will know him, and I am sure most helpful results will accrue from such a plan.

"Seldom does one begin a criminal life as a full-grown man. The origin of the typical criminal is an imperfect child suffering from some defect. . . . He comes from poor parents. . . . He comes from the crowded part of a poor district. . . . His playground is the street, the railroad yards or vacant lots too small for real play and fit only for a loafing place for boys like himself."

Neighborhood Organization in Wheeling*

ALFRED O. ANDERSON

Superintendent of Recreation, Wheeling, W. Virginia

My experience in the organization of community work in Wheeling has been short. This has been my first year of work, but I hope my experience will be helpful to others.

I first met with the Recreation Commission and we decided where to place the four community centers we had appropriation for. The next thing was to work in the community with people who had the vision. I spent several days at this task. Sometimes I would have no clue to the individuals I should see, so I would go to some store, or a barber shop perhaps, and would talk to the people I met there and tell them what we were trying to do. Instead of newspaper publicity I believe in working with individuals. Next, I would get from that individual the names of the next customer, as a house-to-house canvasser does. He would always be sure to know the right man for me to go to. In that way I would see as many individuals as possible and make them promise to come to the first meeting. Then I would go to the office and make out a sort of invitation letter and put into it some ideas that are behind the recreation movement. This I would send to them, asking them to come to this first meeting. The first meeting was usually rather poorly attended, but we had enough people to get a nominating committee appointed. The most important part of the work of organizing a center was that meeting the following night with the nominating committee. I always had things pretty well planned out for the appointing of a board of directors and an advisory committee, and officers. I had four ideas in mind in selecting them,—to see that the churches were represented, to get people of various talents, such as athletics, music, someone who was used to getting up entertainments, and the proper geographical representation. I made a little map of that part of the city and at the meeting of the nominating committee I would tell them that we must have somebody from this place, and somebody from that place, and so on. We would get eight to ten people, and have them formally elected at a subsequent meeting of the whole group. The next important step was the meeting

of this council. Although they might still be uninterested, they had been so thoroughly invited that they came to the council meeting. In that way the thing grew. We had no community center association. The whole thing centered around the council, which met once a month and mapped out a program for the following month. This worked well in all four centers except one, and there the failure was due to the fact that we did not get the right kind of council. The chairman insisted that the council be selected at once instead of by the plan usually followed, and it was so hastily selected that they did not work well together and one night they voted to discontinue. The centers that worked well had good councils. One raised \$250 and another \$2000 for the equipment of one playground and the installation of another. The community centers in Wheeling have worked out well, the whole reason being the selection of a proper board of directors.

Neighborhood Organization in Utica*

W. C. BATCHELOR

Superintendent of Recreation, Utica, New York

I was asked to tell you something of what we do back home in Utica. As in Syracuse we have three distinct types of organization in our neighborhoods. They are not very well coordinated as yet. We have organizations for the younger children, for those between, say, from fifteen years to twenty-two, and then the adult organization.

I am going to tell you a few things about the adult organization, not because it is the best way, but it is the way we have used. There is one significant feature about it, and that is, it is successful,—it works. It is our custom to start with the principal of the school. We use school buildings entirely. We have gone to the school principal, and if he is not won over to the idea already we have convinced him that it would not be detrimental to the building to have a neigh-

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* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 10, 1922.

Neighborhood Organization in Brockton*

WALLACE HATCH

Brockton, Massachusetts

I wonder if the chairman of this organization should send a questionnaire to those of you who are here if he would find two answers alike to the question, "What is neighborhood work?" We have been thinking if it for years, and I doubt if many of us would give the same reply. What do we expect from people in our neighborhoods? It is something intangible, but it should be made tangible. The school is the natural center. I recall an instance in Cincinnati where I started neighborhood work, when I went to a school principal who asked me how we would proceed, saying, "I am afraid it is impossible to do neighborhood work here." He added there were only two ways to go at it, the first of which he had no use for and the second was impossible. The first, to feed them, and the second to invite them personally. Well, we did the second, and got a good work started.

Neighborhood work in Brockton has meant very definite things. We have had entertainments, our small dramatic affairs, our community singing, and various other activities. Early in the work there was a demand for civic activities. Each neighborhood stated what it desired to do. One wanted better street lights. We worked with them to get what they wanted. Another wanted a library of books in the Lithuanian language. We got it. Another wanted better streets, and to some extent we got them. In one neighborhood the people turned down every suggestion we made. I was puzzled and finally asked them frankly what the trouble was. They replied that they refused to do anything else until their children were safeguarded against the fire menace that prevailed in their school. We investigated and found a terrible condition. We went to work at that. In response to our report, the city put in a thirty thousand dollar heating plant as well as doing away with the fire menace. Although terrible objections were offered at the time, since then, a year after, the head of the public property department has said that it was the best improvement in school work that had ever been made, and they wanted now to make

the same improvement in all the schools of the city that were similarly equipped.

The neighborhood work developed along the lines I have indicated and became the nucleus for a wider scope of work. The city organization that it was necessary to interest was the Chamber of Commerce. We made a canvass of the officers and found that three of the eighteen directors of the Chamber were in favor of continuing Community Service work. We had a meeting at the Chamber, to which two or three of the neighborhood people came. In the beginning we knew we had three directors in favor of the work, and that the rest were either lukewarm or definitely opposed to its continuance. That night, however, it was put across because the Chamber was made to see that it could not afford to antagonize the sentiment which had been developed through this neighborhood work. We started two swimming pools, and another has been planned for. These we decided upon because we found the people preferred them above everything else.

A Recreation Program in a Small Community

Community Service of Franklin, New Hampshire, a community of about 6,500 people, in making its report for the year ending October 1, 1922, outlines a large number of community-wide activities conducted during the year. A number of them represent some rather unusual features.

"Father and Son get-together" had, as its main feature, gymnasium exhibit by the boys. The mothers and daughters had a similar gathering. The gymnasium, which is used for many purposes, has served as the meeting place for many gatherings of school children and parents. The serving of tea on these occasions adds greatly to the general sociability.

Several play days were held during the year and such special occasions as kite week, stilt week, lantern week and paper flower week observed.

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J., October 10, 1922.

Rural and Small Community Recreation*

The University and the People

HAROLD D. MEYER

University of North Carolina

I have been here since the beginning of your congress, and I think we are getting very much like the pastor who on Saturday night was talking with his family about the text from which he was to preach the next day. The boys in the family decided to play a trick on Dad, and they pasted the pages of the Bible together. Next morning when the pastor opened the Bible he read: "And when Noah was an hundred and twenty years old he took unto himself a wife, and she was thirty cubits wide." He did not understand and turned to read it over again. Still he did not understand and turned the pages over and over. At last, not knowing what to do he exclaimed: "We shall have to accept it on faith that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made." And so it is with us, I think, we are fearfully and wonderfully made if we can remember all we have heard and can carry it home and put it into practice.

I have received tremendous inspiration and a tremendous lot of information about progressive, recreative activities which I hope to carry back to millions of rural people with whom we have to deal in North Carolina. The startling fact has been brought out in the new census that for the first time in the history of the United States more people are dwelling in cities than in the rural communities, a fact that is of vital interest to every man. We would not wish the cities to stop in their development, but there should be in the rural communities as well as in the cities, an intensive, dynamic, vital life all along the line.

The South is awake. North Carolina is awake. We people are longing for everything that is finest and highest. We are longing for the sunshine of things, just like the people you find in the slums of your great cities. Everything in our state is done on a county basis. There are only seven places in our state probably that could hire a whole time recreation worker. Therefore in a territory of over 59,000 square miles, sparsely settled with three million people, with

little communication and poor transportation, the basis of our efforts must be through university extension work. We cannot place permanent leaders in these centers, but we have thought that through wide propaganda we could literally flood that area with the real vital meaning of recreation, with an idea of the real possibilities in the lives of children that come through play, and in so doing, not rapidly, but surely and steadily develop the movement. The University of North Carolina is a university of the people. The faculty go into all the lives of the people, they live for the people, and the people treat the university as their university. Its main work is extension.

Working Out into the County*

WILLIAM BURDICK, M. D.

Director, Baltimore County Athletic League,
Maryland

When one begins to talk about the rural recreation program it is like the story told in regard to the colored man who did not know how to use a watch. He owned one and was very proud of it, and told his friends, "Dar she iz, but she's shut." We are in that situation. We do not know exactly where we are, but perhaps by looking at the problem and studying it in its details we may come to some conclusion as to how to make it open.

I will tell you of some of the things we have attempted to do through the central office of the Board of Education for the development of better rural life in the country by means of athletics and the play that goes along with it. In a small town of twelve hundred people, within twenty miles of Washington, the pupils in the rural high school, because of the need of better athletes, sent out in the spring twenty boys and girls into the rural one-room schools to teach the various sports. They also had a country picnic at the high school. The high school boys acted as hosts to take care of the groups as they came in. That seems to me the way and the hope of perhaps carrying back into the country the life it has begun to lack.

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, N. J., October 9-12, 1922.

As a result of this work we found it necessary to know whether the children were in good physical condition. Physical examinations discovered that one-tenth were in bad condition. School junior children's aid societies were formed. A nurse was employed to follow up cases in order to determine whether they needed dental, medical or other care, and to secure it. Dental units were organized and a dentist was engaged. Last year the dentist performed four thousand operations on two thousand children. Thus we are getting into the homes of the people, starting out from the athletic life of the child.

We believe the present solution is in keeping people at home and having a full life there, centering around the school rather than the church, because of the number of churches and the fact that some of them find it impossible to enter into this sort of thing. It seems to us that the thing to do is to make the school the center of social life. In one place they have reorganized the whole school system, building new schools, and people who are socially minded are helping with the building. Some of the old buildings are impossible, you will say. We have found it possible, in going into a little two-room school house, by piling up the desks, to use the room for social purposes, and the teacher who is socially minded is glad to have it done. In one school the result has been notable. An athletic club for boys in a space twenty by twelve feet was a failure. The next year they had a singing school and that was a failure. But because the people had been coming together for two years they began to see that they must have something better. In that little town of less than fifty homes already they have bought an old farm. Friends are helping. They have an athletic field and a diamond. The whole neighborhood, which was formerly one of the worst moral spots in the state, is being made over.

Within twenty miles of Washington, not over, a small community with less than a hundred families decided the high school was not sufficient for the community life, and have built a room twenty-four by eighty feet, built it themselves, at a cost of less than three thousand dollars, and have put in electric lights. Here they hold weekly sessions, with volley ball, basket ball, and other activities, all centering around the school property.

It is gradually coming about that when a community finds that its children are not getting as good times or doing as well in athletics as their

neighbors, they demand that the county shall buy land in order to have proper facilities. This is relatively a new development.

Not many years ago I went to speak in a country school upon the topic of recreation. I was instructed not in any case to use the word "play." I went very carefully prepared, laid out all my notes in which I had used the word recreation and never used the word play, but I did not know that community. They put out all the lights, and I could not read my notes. In that particular community, after the war, they insisted that they must have play because they had been working so hard to win the war. At the present time that is one of the most socialized communities in the state of Maryland.

The people are demanding that the schools shall have large yards, and tracks, and fields. Small towns within two years have built athletic tracks on six acres of land and demand that the counties shall distribute the various meets, because as a result of a continued program people of the counties have come together every year not only to find out who is the best athlete, but more particularly in order to have social gatherings. The result is that last year we had every county of Maryland bringing its boys and girls together to get acquainted with one another. We have brought about now a spirit that requires every child in school to represent the school properly, not only as winners in the games. If you have enough games everybody gets away with something always. We have arranged our programs so that there are games for boys and girls, divided into groups, and we have athletic badge tests. The result is that practically everybody has a good time and every one gets something definite out of it.

The important thing is not so much the athletics. The important thing is—Are we developing the right kind of spirit in communities in relation not only to one another but to the whole country? We believe that if we do this, as a boy represents his school, his county, his town, or his state, we are bringing about right things for America. We had a test recently. Two towns were tied in a soccer contest. One team was composed of country boys, big bashful fellows, not very good team players. The other team consisted of miners, rough, tough, more or less undisciplined. We were doubtful about the result, but we decided to have the game in the country boys' town, and the mining boys were to stay in the homes of the country boys the night before

the game. The game was played, and the country boys defeated the miners, but the mining boys' principal wrote back that it was the best time they ever had. We believe things like that develop the right kind of citizenship.

The Problem of the Town*

MILDRED CORBETT

National Board, Y. W. C. A.

I do not come from the country. I may look it, but I don't. I come from Gopher Prairie. I come from all the Gopher Prairies of America. Eagerly and wistfully I have listened to all these addresses. I want to speak for the Gopher Prairies that do not have an artist's colony sitting on the edge. I want to draw your attention specially to the fact that the American town as a feature of society is emerging into our national consciousness and that the American town demands specialized thinking, even as we know that our great cities have received, and our rural communities are receiving, specialized thinking. Our communities are recognizing that there is a distinctive life in these communities. A few sociologists are catching glimpses of it, particularly as they note the population movements out of the city into the small community and away from the farms into the small towns. From the city out and from the country in, to a type of community which is neither city nor country, but partakes of the nature of both—that is about as near as we have come to a definition of this great section of communities which do not even have a right to an exclusive name. There is no word we can apply to them in order to describe them. In many states any community big enough to be incorporated is incorporated as a city. There are village corporations and city corporations. The word "town" has a legal meaning in New England, but in other sections of the country it is popularly applied to anything. And yet we know that there is such a thing as an American town. I should not be surprised if most of us are neither country nor city bred, but have come out from these very communities. Douglass says "our lack of recognition of the town as such lies largely in the fact of its familiarity." We know it best and notice it least. Further the town is a neuter, therefore to the non-awakened mind a sort of non-district.

I haven't a definition of a town. You will

* Address given at Recreation Congress.

all have to make one for yourselves. Professor Bailey and others tell us that with the exception of Canada there is no other modern nation that has produced the town as we know it. The American town is unique. It is therefore in America not enough that we should have urban sociologists and rural sociologists, but we should have another kind of sociological thinking, which must arise, and is arising. Between the general population lines of 2500, above which usually rural aspects do not prevail, and about 20,000, above which a community has distinctly urban aspects—between these two general lines—there lies a great section of national life where over one-fourth of us live.

We live under town conditions, conditions which are distinct from both other kinds of life, and yet social workers and all of us who classify communities for purposes of service, attach these thousands of towns as tails to the urban or rural account, as may be convenient. What our towns need is to be studied, classified, diagnosed, and all the rest of it, in terms of town life, not as variations of rural or urban life. I see the need from two opposite angles. We know that America is seriously afflicted with cityitis. We are all straining after the effects of the city. Most towns do not attain this end, and the trouble is if they do not they are apt to regard themselves as failures, with the spiritual results which are contingent upon such a state of mind. On the other hand, too often what the towns despise are the things for which they themselves are despised by your real ruralist. Someone has truly said that the vexed question which exists between country folk and town folk in our land is one of the serious moral factors of the town. If these towns of ours, industrial, suburban, college, country towns, and all the rest of the kinds of towns, are to be proud of being towns, or, as Mr. Taft said, if they are going to be interested in themselves as towns, not as little cities, but as towns, and not apologetic because they are not great cities, if they are to recognize themselves and be recognized as great constructive factors in our national life, I believe the Playground and Recreation Association of America and other great organizations should do the thing that the National Board of Young Women's Christian Associations has recently done, namely, provide for a special study of and service to towns as such. We need also that our schools of social work and kindred schools should give courses dealing with town sociology, town psychology,

not to the end that we should make more divisions in our national life,—we do not need more divisions—but to the eternally desirable end that all phases of our national life should become alive to making their own unique contribution to America the beautiful, and thus to the world.

In a Depleted Town*

W. P. JACKSON

You have heard about recreation from one who represents the state, you have been told concerning the work of the county, and of the small town. I want to tell you about work in the country. There is a little town with seven houses and a church on the hill and a schoolhouse, a depleted town. The people of this town had not been told anything about the social instinct. They did not know there was any such thing. But they had ambitions. A nearby town was being organized for recreation—drama, music and similar activities—and they heard about it and decided they were not going to be left out. So they sent certain of their number down to learn how the city was doing this thing, and for a year since that time they have been carrying on community parties, where they have an hour of community singing under the charge of a music committee, and then three-quarters to an hour of entertainment under the dramatic committee. They have rehearsals of plays over the telephone. After the play the benches are cleared out and they play games until eleven-thirty, ending with a Virginia Reel or *Pop Goes the Weasel*. They have kept this up for over a year, every two weeks, and neighbors who were formerly not on speaking terms have found if they wanted to be popular they had to speak to each other. Grandfather dances the Virginia Reel with his granddaughter although he is a member of the church.

The community is thoroughly organized with a central board and committees on various activities, every one functioning. The town is organ-

ized and the people have had their community parties, the smallest number present being 58 and the largest 158. And the latter days are better than the first.

They brought this about because the town that was being organized nearby was willing to share with them and give to them, and that is the point I want you to get. You in the larger towns, think of the rural communities around you, invite their young people to come to your institutes. We found a man in our community who had studied under a great musician, and a woman who at one time was understudy for Nance O'Neill. We found a lieutenant-commander of the United States Navy, and an eleven-year old girl who can show you where the wild ginger grows. And they are now imparting what they know to their neighbors. Our organizer at the trading center gave us some ideas, helped us, and came up and talked to us, and our men went into the forest and brought back playground apparatus. We have six swings and a slide. They do just as well as if we had paid \$175 for them. In this little town, depleted, isolated, with only seven houses, they have a camp every summer, and twenty, thirty, or forty girls are brought together for two weeks from the farms. They bring produce, they live together for two weeks, play together, work together and are instructed together.

I am asking that we forget the depletion, the isolation and find there what we are looking for in our larger communities, and we shall find it. Help them by training their own leadership and they will carry on by themselves. Carry on? A demand has come from other small communities that trade at the same center, some eighteen or nineteen, encouraged by the efficient work of the organizer, and at the end of this month there is to be a county institute. Nineteen rural towns and country villages are coming together to study their own problems of recreation, train their own leaders, arrange for a year's program. The Red Cross, the Parent-Teachers' Association, the Farm Bureau, and the rural teachers, are all backing it up and are seeing that representatives from these communities will be there.

* Address given at Recreation Congress.

"There is added to the regular causes of property crimes, the element of danger and adventure which makes a strong appeal to boys and men. . . . The football, baseball, polo or golf player very seldom becomes a robber or a burglar. Those who fall under this lure are mainly the denizens of the streets, the railroad yards, the vacant lots."

The Recreation Problem in the Open Country

JOHN F. SMITH, Berea College

WHAT DO COUNTRY CHILDREN DO FOR RECREATION?

Boys hunt every manner of beast and fowl and creeping thing that walks or runs or swims or flies in the neighborhood about them. They chase rabbits with dogs, and twist the quarry from under rocks with long sticks; they "poke out" squirrels and screech owls from holes in trees; they scratch out chipmunks from holes in the ground with sharp sticks, and in this they are assisted by the dog which works with as much zest as if he were after a dinosaur. They smoke groundhogs from holes in the ground, and drive coons from hollow trees in the same manner; they grope for cat fish, jab for perch and redeyes, kill lizards with rocks and grass blades, and are always ready to lay an angle worm on a hot rock "Jes to see the ole son-of-a-gun sizzle." They fight wasps with handfuls of shrubs and destroy bumble bees' nests—and rarely get stung; they thrash out yellow jackets with bundles of rye straw, whiz rocks at cows and hogs, and put burning matches on the backs of live terrapins "Jes to see the ole devil git a move on himself." They see that house cats have plenty of physical exercise and mental torture; they "shy" wet cobs at chickens, ducks and geese; they make "bess-bugs" and large ants fight, and they allow no bird of whatsoever kind to perch within range of rocks which they throw with almost as much accuracy as their fathers can shoot a rifle. Everything is hunted from horned owl to June bug, and from deer and wild turkey to water-dog.

And they let no domestic animal about the barn and fields live in peace. They run races on mule-back, play showman on horses as they ride them to water, and turn rams and goats together to see them fight; they keep hogs as tough as football players by pelting them with stones, and they "lay" a rock in the face or bounce it off the ribs of every cow who tries to pass them. Besides this, they climb all manner of trees and haylofts, swim in all sorts of water, play monkey in the tops of trees and saplings, swing on treacherous vines out over dangerous cliffs, wade by the half day in swift water, hunting for pearls and rarely finding one, run races down steep hills leaping over

stumps and logs as they go and think nothing of jumping twenty or thirty feet at an effort.

They rarely get badly hurt. If one falls from a horse he whimpers a bit and mounts again. If a young bull calf runs through the bush or briers or against the fence while a boy is on his back he pays dearly for his effort by carrying the rider twice as long as the rider originally intended. If a mad bull approaches with murderous intention the boy climbs an apple tree with the agility of a squirrel and sits on a limb calmly munching apples until the bull retires. If a limb breaks while the lad is climbing trees he may get a considerable jolt, but this is considered merely a feature of the day's fun and is soon forgotten. In all of his multivariied activities the boy is learning how to take care of himself under all sorts of circumstances.

Most girls do almost none of the things that boys so much delight in. They stay about the house, sweep, cook, wash dishes, make beds, knit or crochet, scare the chickens from the porch, bring water from the spring or the well, and look after the smaller children. A few timid souls go out in the pastures and ride the family horse without a saddle, and some of the more adventurous steal away on dark nights dressed in old clothes and wade and splash in the creek; but the activities of the girl are very much hedged in with conventionalities which keep her near the house and deny her the delightful outdoor sports which she yearns for and which she ought to have.

When together in school—the country schools—the boys and girls play numerous games. Among these are *Sixty or Whoopie Hide*, *Poison Switch*, *Sheep Meat*, *Old Granny Grunt*, *Frog-in-the-Meadow*, *Granny Hobble-gobble*, *Bull-pen*, *Town Ball*, *Marching 'round the Levee*, *Handkerchief*, *Antey Over*, and dozens of others. Most of these school games are games of violent action, for the country child who is well and strong does not relish a game that keeps him sitting still.

When boys and girls grow older they play *Winkum*, *Clap-in and Clap-out*, *Poor Old Puss*, *Club Fist*, *Jacob and Ruth*, *Animal*, *Cross Question and Silly Answer*, and numerous others including, in some neighborhoods, nearly a score of kissing games. They dance the Virginia reel and the old square dances, play skipping games and often do the round dances with great relish.

WHAT KIND OF RECREATION DO COUNTRY
PEOPLE NEED IN ADDITION TO WHAT
THEY NOW HAVE?

1. They need more group gatherings where both young and old will come together to play. Young men and women often get together but the older people rarely do so. Fathers and mothers need this social contact as much as their sons and daughters do.

2. They need gatherings which afford opportunities for display and cultivation of individual talents. There is an enormous amount of talent among country people which is often entirely overlooked by people who act as play directors. People know songs and ballads, and can sing them; some can play various instruments; others can tell interesting stories; nearly all know some plays and games which they have nearly forgotten. One young woman from a mountain neighborhood gave me nearly one hundred different songs and ballads most of which she knew from memory. I know men who can play three hundred or more different fiddle tunes from memory, men who do not know one note from another, and whose talents could be made a source of great joy to their neighbors if only they were utilized more often. One of the greatest sources of material for leisure-time programs is this store of song and story, games and instrumental music which people of practically every country neighborhood know.

3. Special play occasions are needed for the old people. Time often hangs heavily on the hands of grandfathers and grandmothers, and they often grow sour and lose the exquisite charm which age ought to possess because they have no place where they may go and play together. Life loses its joys for them, and they in turn kill the joys of other people. A play program for country people should by all means include special features for them.

4. Special attention should be given to mothers. No group of people needs recreation more, and none have less opportunity for relaxation and fun-making. They are on the job twenty-four hours in the day, and often grow old and worn at forty because they always work and rarely play. The play instinct in them often becomes crushed out, and because of this fact they deprive their children of the play rights which every child should have.

5. Group meetings for both old and young are needed where patriotic and recreation songs are

sung and where the young folks learn early the lessons of patriotism and loyalty to their neighborhoods and their country. There is a vast amount of unutilized manhood and womanhood which America badly needs, and which very few people are trying to train. These untrained people may become a serious menace unless some organization undertakes the business of training them and directing their growth in the right direction.

6. A supply of simple play apparatus is needed at every country home where both boys and girls may find an opportunity for developing strength and spending pleasant hours within sight of their own homes. Boys habitually wander away from home because there is often little there to do except to feed pigs, split and carry in the stove wood, and avoid angry parents. They learn the art of leaving home early, and as soon as they become old enough to shift for themselves they leave permanently. And heart-broken parents often sit and wonder why their sons are so prone to wander away. This apparatus should not be expensive but should be the kind that may be made by unskilled hands from material that is already on the ground.

7. Every neighborhood needs a common playground where all may turn out occasionally for sports and contests, and where family differences may be forgotten in the excitement of play and friendly rivalry. It matters not where this playground is located, just so it is there in a convenient place. There is little inclination among most country people to work together in important enterprises because they have no opportunity to play on a common playground. Sheep or cattle or hogs roam over the spot where a playground ought to be, and the boys have to take to the woods.

WHAT MAY BE DONE TO SECURE THESE
ADVANTAGES FOR COUNTRY PEOPLE?

1. Courses in play and recreation should be offered in all country schools and normal schools. We may not expect the spirit of play to be highly developed among country people until it is cultivated more among their children. It must be made a part of their training. Children spend plenty of time in parsing and diagramming, in complex fractions and bank discount, but precious little is said in the country school about play and the making of leisure-time programs.

2. Major athletics should receive much less attention in our colleges and universities, and em-

phasis should be placed on the forms of recreation that can be made operative in the open countryside even where mountains are high and valleys are deep and narrow. The making of a star is infinitely less important than the training of a whole student body to be play directors among their friends in their own neighborhoods.

3. Play institutes should be held at strategic places in the open country for the purpose of training leaders and teaching the people the importance of organized play in everyday farm life.

4. A long step will be taken in the right direction when some organization decides to publish in inexpensive form a volume of the plays and games of country people that all who aspire to leadership in recreation among country people may know what material the people have already on hand. There is material enough available for an excellent volume if only someone would see to it that steps are taken to make it available for use.

WHAT IS BERE A DOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF RECREATION IN RURAL DISTRICTS?

1. Efforts are constantly being made to keep major athletics subordinated to the larger task of furnishing adequate physical training to all the students who come on the campus, and training play leaders who will continue in the neighborhoods back in the mountains the programs that were begun on the campus.

2. Courses in play and recreation are offered which reach a large number of students each year. Students who take these courses are urged to devote some time to carrying out leisure-time programs among the home folk.

3. Play and recreation programs are conducted from time to time in the neighborhoods around the town where the country people come together for fun and acquaintance. Students and faculty folk take part as leaders in these meetings.

4. A considerable number of neighborhoods near Berea have local organizations which head up in a super-council engineered by Berea workers, and these organizations make and carry out their own programs with the advice and cooperation of workers from the College. In most things the people themselves take the initiative but frequently call upon some of the workers for advice and assistance.

5. Large neighborhood gatherings composed of the people from a score or more of different communities are occasionally held in the town, and a

good deal of fun-making is staged in which the people themselves do most of the playing. For example, last Fourth of July about two thousand people came together to have lunch on the campus, get acquainted, listen to a few speeches, and play. More than a dozen different neighborhoods put on stunts and the results were most satisfactory.

6. The writer is constantly picking up plays and games with the hope that they may sometime become available for play directors who are on the lookout for material which the country people have long played among themselves.

The open country field lies waiting for some hand to take charge and to bring to isolated folk opportunities for wholesome fun-making which have long been denied them. The boy and the girl at the head of the hollow are still waiting for someone who has knowledge and sympathy to draw near and do the thing that will bring more joy into their limited experience.

The Problem of Labor and Capital

(Continued from page 535)

conditions, to the gaining of a little leisure and of the time to play and be happy, was wholly right and to the advantage of the community. From such men as you such ambitions on the part of labor, moderately and wisely directed, should have every possible encouragement.

The problem of capital and of labor will never be wholly worked out. People talk as if it were an example in arithmetic, capable of a final solution. It is no such thing. It is a problem of human beings; therefore, of emotions, gropings, longings, and ambitions. We can meet it only little by little, and only then if we put ourselves in the other fellow's shoes and get his viewpoint. Do you and I want to change our jobs of long hours, evening conferences, heavy and continuing responsibility, for the job of the man who has the chance in his daily work to relieve his brains with the work of his hands? Some days no doubt we all feel like it; but whether we would make exchange or would not, it is our responsibility to study more fully than we do today the conditions of labor and be sure that, by and large every competent worker (be he in the office or in the field) has an interval in the drudgery of work for that enjoyment of life that will make him a more contented and better citizen. In this matter you and I have a responsibility that we cannot dodge.

Winter Sports in Denver*

F. H. TALBOT

Executive Secretary, Community Service

We are especially fortunate in Denver in having ideal climatic conditions for skiing. We have established a ski course on the northern side of one of the foothills adjacent to Denver. As this foothill has an altitude of over 6,000 feet, we are assured of snow from about the middle of October to the first of March. Facing the ski course from the other half of the valley is a splendid natural amphitheatre capable of accommodating at least 50,000 spectators. The winter conditions being invariably mild, this hill sloping toward the south is practically always free from snow. It is possible then for spectators to be very comfortable while witnessing the ski exploits of the members of the club. I think this fact has accounted particularly for the rapidly increasing interest and participation in skiing.

Between 30,000 and 35,000 persons attended our first ski tournament. No accurate record has been kept of successive tournaments, but we are satisfied that there has been an increasing interest manifested.

The Ski Club has purchased ten acres and improved the same at a cost of approximately \$4,000. During the past year a small club house was erected on the premises. The membership in the club numbers about 250. Exhibitions are frequently given for which a small charge is made. The rest of the time the course is open to the club members. Saturday and Sunday skiing parties have become very popular with the members.

There are two "take-offs" on the course, a large one for the advanced jumpers and a smaller one farther down the hill for beginners. We are seeking to encourage interest among the boys of the city by allowing them free privileges on the ski course until they become ski fans.

Various clubs have been invited to skiing parties as the guests of the Ski Club. Such groups have included the Lions' Club, Kiwanis Club, Gyro Club, Boy Scouts, and other organizations.

Every effort is being made to keep the Ski Club entirely democratic. The city cooperates by furnishing extra traffic policemen to handle the crowds on the mountain roads.

On account of the mountains and the favorable

climatic conditions in Colorado, several other ski clubs have been recently organized. There are at least five now in active operation with others proposed.

The objection that ski jumping is dangerous is best answered by the statistics in comparison with other major sports. The records will show that there have been fewer accidents in skiing than in baseball or football; further it is shown that such accidents nearly always happen to spectators who crowd in on the course to get a better view of the jumpers.

Outdoor Winter Sports*

K. B. RAYMOND

Supervisor of Recreation

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minneapolis is doing a great deal in the promotion of outdoor Winter Sports, and there are two main reasons why we are making a special effort in these activities; 1st: Minneapolis is unfortunate or fortunate whichever way you may take it, in not having adequate facilities to carry on a complete indoor recreation program. 2nd: Minneapolis is ideally situated geographically to carry on and conduct all types of Winter Sports. The general public in the northern section of our country is too apt if left to their own resources to make their winter recreation of a sedentary and of an indoor nature. The outdoors in the winter offers the most ideal opportunity for healthful and vigorous recreation, the air being free from dust, providing there is snow, and crystal enough to stimulate a desire for a really vigorous form of exercise.

The Minneapolis Park Board, through its Recreation Department furnishes the following equipment for its outdoor activities: 30 neighborhood skating rinks; 2 toboggan slides with attendants in charge; 5 officially lighted hockey rinks; 2 ski slides; 1 official quarter-mile speed skating rink; and 1 official figure skating rink.

Ice Hockey. We have four Municipal Hockey Leagues organized, playing on our five lighted rinks. These leagues are arranged from the Junior to the Senior Divisions. If you are planning on installing hockey rinks—by all means

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 10, 1922.

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make a special effort to have them properly lighted, as it will more than triple their use. Our Intermediate and Senior teams do all their practicing and playing of games nights. This leaves the rinks open during the day for the miscellaneous play of the school children, which means an ever increasing enrollment of teams in our leagues.

Speed Skating. We have organized a municipal Speed Skating Club which meets regularly every Sunday afternoon during the season. At two different periods during the season invitation meets are held which attract a large entry list from Minneapolis and nearby cities. These meets are very popular, drawing a large crowd of spectators. This from a publicity standpoint is very valuable because it keeps before the minds of the citizens that they have a Recreation Department in the city that is wide awake all the year.

Figure Skating—Men and Women. This is an activity which has been greatly neglected during the past few years. It is one of the most ideal forms of sport and exercise. It differs from hockey and speed skating in that you are never too old to enjoy this form of sport. Figure skating is something you can not pick up by yourself, and in our Municipal Figure Skating Club, there are several expert skaters who donate their services as instructors. At stipulated periods of the day and evening they are at the rink ready to give instruction to anyone interested.

Hiking. Three years ago our Recreation Department organized a municipal Hiking Club. The Recreation Department scheduled the hikes and furnished a leader, inviting people of Minneapolis, through the newspapers and bulletins to get on their "hiking togs" and see the park system and surrounding country on foot. When the club was first organized we thought it would be of interest to a few of the "hang-overs" of the old days who liked to use their legs. The hike started the first year with an average attendance of about 75 people; it has been steadily increasing each successive year and is now close to 200. It started out to be purely a Saturday afternoon affair but became so popular, giving such a splendid opportunity for a good informal social time, that we have had to arrange several times a month special moonlight hikes ending up with a "feed and dance." Out of this big group any number of small hiking clubs have been organized.

Skiing. A large percentage of the population of

Minneapolis is of Norwegian and Swedish descent and their favorite winter sport is skiing. We have taken advantage of this taste by organizing a municipal Ski Club, the department maintaining one official jumping scaffold for adults and one small slide for beginners and children. This organization has made such rapid progress in the two years of its existence that it was able to bid for the National Ski Tournament for 1923. The organization was successful in this, and the 1923 National Tournament will be held in Minneapolis. The National Ski Meet seems to be the biggest Winter Sport event in our country, and our department feels proud of the fact that the tournament was awarded to us. As far as I am able to ascertain, Minneapolis has the only municipal Ski Club in the United States.

Dog Derby. The dog, the boy's best friend, has come into his own in Minneapolis through the Dog Derby, which is conducted by the Recreation Department with the help of one of our leading newspapers. All that is needed to make this a success is a good bed of snow and an organization. You will have no trouble to get entries, as every boy who owns a dog will enter. Dog Derbies and Dog Races have been played up so continually in boys' stories and in all northern novels, that the foundation so necessary for any successfully conducted activity is already laid.

Ice Carnivals. In six different sections of our city a special night is set aside on one of our municipal rinks for an ice carnival. The rink is decorated with carnival lights, a band is secured so that the skaters may skate to music, exhibition hockey games and figure skating exhibitions are given and costume parades conducted. These carnivals have proved to be a great success, the rinks being so packed, with the sides banked with spectators, that it is almost impossible to do any skating. As many as 15,000 people attended these individual carnivals.

To my mind there are two very important phases of this outdoor winter activity. First—the physical and moral benefit each individual participant and spectator derives by getting out into the great outdoors. We all know what this is, so there is no need to speak of it. Second—The publicity and good-will derived by the department. I think too many of our Recreation Departments are too much given to hiding their light under a bushel, in other words they are carrying on a very valuable piece of work but are doing it in an unspectacular sort of way. Every one of

the activities mentioned is of a spectacular nature which make the newspapers want to play them up. In other words you are doing a real service to your community, but along with it you are getting your department some real publicity by letting the people know you are on earth. The newspapers are not the only means of putting your program before the people, as each one of these activities draws large crowds of people, who get a concrete example of what the Recreation Department is and what it means to the city.

Mr. Raymond will be glad to answer any inquiries on specific phases of the work sent him in care of the Recreation Department, Board of Park Commissioners.

"Kid" Carnival at Hanover, New Hampshire

ROY B. CHAMBERLIN, Minister,
Church of Christ, Dartmouth College

The big day of the year for the "kids" of Hanover, New Hampshire, is February the twenty-second, for on that day the Dartmouth College Outing Club conducts a "Kid Carnival" which is a duplicate in almost every respect of the annual event that has made Dartmouth famous as the headquarters of Intercollegiate Winter Sports. And the "kids" are all in it! Tiny three-year-old girls who can hardly walk steadily are competing in the ski races, as well as big over-grown fifteen-year-old boys in the awkward stage of their development.

And the parents enjoy it as much as the "kids" themselves. Before the hour scheduled for the opening of the meet, the boys and girls, often with their fathers on skis, too, appeared and made ready for the events. Mothers pushing little brother in a baby-sleigh, came along; and other mothers, holding coats or sweaters for their little ones between events, must have had anxious moments as their boys came over the jump, landing in a heap on the hard slope. A community day in the best sense of the word!

The competitors in the carnival were divided into four classes according to age—15 to 12, 12 to 9, 9 to 7, and under 7. Most of the events were for the two upper classes only. The 100 yards dashes, and ski cross country over a course of about a mile in length, and the junior dashes were all exciting—the most likely looking runner would frequently stumble at the last moment and lose; or in some cases would think the finish line was nearer than really was the case. The event

that attracted the most attention from fond mothers was doubtless the "50-yard dash down hill, for boys and girls under 7"—and it was indeed interesting. The winner of the final heat was none other than the 6-year-old son of Harry Hillman, formerly one of the world's fastest sprinters and middle distance men, and track coach at Dartmouth.

But the thrills for the spectators came with the jumping. A small snow take-off had been built on a steep hill on the golf links, and the youngsters of all ages, boys and girls both, began their practice jumping as soon as the other events were over. And there must be more than thrills for fathers and mothers who see their boys dash down the slide, spring out into the air, land wrong, turn head over heels and roll down the hill with boy and skis all of a tangle. But the jumping goes on year after year, with fewer serious injuries than are caused by tobogganing.

The jumpers were divided into two classes, 12 to 15, and below 12. Some of the older boys who have been on skis since babyhood, are already going over the big college jump—and of course, this little affair was tame for them.

While this "Kid Carnival" is the big event, it is but the culmination of the whole winter. Hanover is situated in a hilly section of the Connecticut River Valley, so that on every side there are open hilly fields just suited to skiing. With the first snow in the late fall, the skis come out, and from that time until the final spring thaw every front door is decorated with them, and every hillside for miles around is marked with the graceful ski tracks. Moreover, at every possible vantage point, where the slope is right, little snow jumps are built, on which the little children begin their training, and get the knack of this most difficult and daring phase of the ski-runner's art. The Boy Scouts take their hikes on skis and make a picnic day of it; the girls' clubs frequently go off on skis; and a father-and-son ski hike is a common affair. Moreover, a large number of the mothers, too, don their knickers when the snow is right and go out on their skis to join their sons and daughters. So the "kid carnival" is nothing abnormal or unusual, but merely the one day when the winter life of the community comes together for its completest expression.

"The big intercollegiate carnival was fine", said one spectator on leaving the children's meet, "but this is the finest community day I ever saw. No wonder Hanover children are healthy."

Skating Rinks and How to Make Them

J. R. BATCHELOR

There is a real art in making skating rinks, and unless certain fundamentals are observed, the uninitiated will always have trouble.

The Ground and Surface

The ground is naturally the first consideration. The surface should be level, or as level as possible, for the more the ground slopes, the longer it will take to flood the area. It is as easy to make a large rink as a small one. Sometimes however, by cutting off a foot or two, a slope may be avoided at the edge. The best surface is of clay, but on most playgrounds there is a surface of gravel over clay or some other foundation, and this is not hard to freeze. Sand is the most difficult surface to freeze as the water invariably soaks through before it freezes.

Banks

The making of the bank is usually the process which causes the most trouble. The best bank is one which has been plowed up and tamped before freezing weather comes. One furrow should be plowed around the rink and the dirt packed down with a spade or tamper to make it sufficiently solid to prevent air holes through the bank. If work is not started in time to do this plowing, a board bank may be constructed of two-inch planks, ten or twelve feet long, laid on edge after the loose surface has been scraped to enable the plank to rest on a solid foundation. The planks are laid end to end around the rink; 2x4 stakes about three feet long are driven into the ground to the depth of a foot at each intersection and nailed to the planks. This prevents any moving of the planks after they are laid. The dirt scraped from under them should be tamped around the planks at the bottom.

If a heavy snow storm should come before these steps are taken, it may be necessary to make a snow bank. The farther north the location, the easier it is to make a bank, but at the best, these banks are not very satisfactory, and more time will be consumed in their making, as the snow must be entirely frozen through before any attempt can be made to flood the surface of the rink.

The Sprinkling and Freezing Process

After these steps have been completed, the rink is ready for freezing. This process will take a great deal of time, and it must not be hurried. People very often make the mistake of forgetting that water put on a bank or rink is much warmer than the ice formed by a previous flooding. Rinks should not be flooded except in extremely cold weather when an attempt may be made to bring the surface, after it has been thoroughly prepared, up to level. The best way to do this is to use a regular garden hose without a nozzle spray, spraying the bank particularly at its base. This must be done night after night until the possibility of leakage is past.

The surface should be frozen in the same manner as the bank—that is, by starting the sprinkling at the far end and working toward the water supply. This process should be repeated until the ice is from two to four inches thick. If the water then shows no sign of leaking through the bank, an inner-tube may be put on on an especially cold night. The best method for this is to use a two-inch hose or one of approximately that size, letting it run at the farthest end of the rink and drawing it toward the base of supply as the water comes to you. A good hose to use is the Mill hose, rubber inside and out, with regular hose coupling. It is well to have the connection through a building with the valve on the inside. If the rink is too large to flood in this way, a special line of pipe may be laid along the edge of the rink below the freezing line with two or three flooding valves coming to the surface in a box about four feet square, the shut off cock being down in the ground. This should be well protected from freezing by manure.

The Shelter House

Where the weather is very cold, it will be necessary to have a warming house. The knock-down type is very convenient and can be removed at the end of the season. It should be large enough to accommodate the attendance but not so large as to encourage loafing. A house about twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide makes a good size. A round oak stove in the center which will burn either hard or soft coal is a satisfactory heating plant.

The presence of a warming house makes supervision necessary.

The Care of the Rink

If the rink is constantly used, almost as much ice will be shaved off during the day as was put on the preceding night. This ice must be scraped off before the rink is used and the process should be repeated several times during the day. The best scraper is made of sheet iron about four feet long and three feet wide and is made like a dustpan on runners, the edge being about eighteen inches high at the back. The runners come from about six inches from the front of the scraper underneath along the bottom to the back and up the outside of the back. This forms the handle which is much like the handle of a wide baby carriage. Two men or boys can push it at once. It is not necessary to sweep the rink as the water will absorb what is left. Where there are holes or cracks, a little hot water may be poured into them. The sprinkling of the rink should be done at the coldest time of the day. After the final scraping is done, the water may be sprinkled on and left to freeze all night.

Lighting

A number of methods of lighting are used. Many people prefer the flood lights placed where they will cover the surface. Five hundred Watt lamps are used for this, as many as are needed for the size of the rink. Good lighting effects have been secured with a cable strung at intervals of fifty feet across the rink with a string of incandescent lights fastened to it.

Equipment for Games

In running races on a rink, boxes or barrels are placed in each corner and a flag tacked above each. The laps are determined by measuring fifteen feet out from the boxes; the distance around is fixed by measuring around the rink fifteen feet from the boxes. In conducting a race, judges should be placed at each corner to see that the boxes are not touched.

For hockey, a bank four feet high should be erected around the playing surface. Wherever possible, it is well to have a separate rink where hockey will be played exclusively, with banks frozen into the ice.

"The recreation that helps us to fit our lives in to the lives of others and to develop social abilities is that recreation from which we obtain a lot of enjoyment out of doing something useful and doing it together."

—LEROY BOWMAN

Joint Activities for Boys and Girls of the Early Team Ages

GENEVIEVE TURNER HOLMAN

The three part arrangement which the great majority of playgrounds have adopted makes possible a separation of the activities of the older boys and girls. This arrangement, however, can not relieve the playground director of the responsibility for planning activities which boys and girls of the early team age may enjoy together. One recreation official has suggested that there might well be a fourth part added to the three part playground where boys and girls may play together, or, lacking sufficient space for this, there might be arranged (when the play leader shall supervise activities) a game hour in one of the other play spaces.

A few of the joint activities for boys and girls may well include picnics on the playground or at the end of hikes, excursions, story hours, manual and constructive play hours and certain groups on certain days. There may, too, be group games with individualistic competitions such as Duck-on-a-Rock, Spud, and Tennis Singles. Among the team games it is possible to have Dodge Ball, Long Ball, Quick Ball, Prisoners' Base, and Mixed Doubles in Tennis. Sometimes for practice the girls are permitted to play a younger group of boys in volley ball or baseball. As a rule girls should not compete against boys in the major games.

Hikes and picnics for boys and girls provide the opportunity for playing stalking and scouting games. Singing games may well be introduced into the circle games which boys and girls of this age may play.

In swimming pools at a play center it is usual to set aside different days for boys and girls to swim. When swimming trips are conducted to a beach, however, both boys and girls may be included.

Boys and girls may take part together in general skating and coasting and in mass skating races, in Crack the Whip, Tag, Snow Battles, Snow Bombardment, and snow construction contests. There should be no competition between individual boys and girls in skating races or of teams of boys against girls in ice hockey. Racing contests between boys and girls should also be avoided, as should most of the highly competitive team games.

There are a number of less strenuous activities which young people may enjoy together. Among them reading might have particular mention. Whether the story hour for boys and girls is held at the same time or not, good literature has particular importance in the relation of boys and girls and of young men and women. "The best gift to any set of young people is something to talk about," says Joseph Lee. "One instinctively sympathizes with the man who proposed because he could not think of anything else to say."

Horseshoe Pitching in Aberdeen

J. P. HOFFBERGER

Community Service of Aberdeen, Washington

Forty-seven teams competing in a league over a period of eight weeks is the record of Community Service of Aberdeen where interest rose to a high pitch.

It was largely an industrial league, and the teams took their names from the names of the firms for whom the men composing them worked. In a number of instances, one of the partners or the proprietor of the firm was a member of the team. Many of the teams had their clique of "rooters" from their own plant. The Rotarians had a team playing. A silver loving cup was the prize offered by the Thomas Jewelry Store, the manager of which had a large share in the success of the league.

Four regulation courts were built on a vacant lot owned by one of the local banking firms which was located in the center of the coming business section, adjoining the Community House. The four courts cost seventy-nine cents, all materials with the exception of the lumber being donated by the firms. Volunteer labor did the work. According to the official blacksmith of the Horseshoe League, in two weeks a ton and a half of shoes were carried away from his shop by men and boys connected with the teams. As there are about two thousand shoes in tonnage, there could be no doubt of the interest aroused by the contest.

National association rules were followed. Eight teams pitched regularly each night; four judges and scorers and one head judge officiated. Courts and shoes were available at any time except during the period of the official games from

seven to eight-thirty p. m. The schedule was so arranged that no team would play the same team twice on one evening nor play two consecutive games on the same court. No team was eliminated, for the league was run on a played, won, and lost percentage. Teams and percentages were posted on a big blackboard in a display window. The secretary of the league made necessary changes daily. No one man was allowed to play on more than one team; a team might have any number of substitutes to throw into the game if their regular players were off form. One team appeared each scheduled time with four substitutes. Three official games were scheduled for each team on the day on which they played.

Tri-city matches were played between Elma, Hoquiam and Aberdeen, each town having three teams to represent it. But out of these matches there grew a sentiment to form a county championship match at the Grays Harbor County Fair at Elma. In none of these matches were Aberdeen's players forced to retire in defeat. Even the logging camps on the Harbor where horseshoes are the evening pastime for the loggers were compelled to lower their colors to the Aberdeen chuckers.

Sometimes two hundred people crowded around to watch the contest. Interest was so keen that a boys' league was organized on the playground, and a *father and son tournament* was held.

The Evolution of the Playground in San Francisco

The remarkable development of adult work on San Francisco playgrounds of late is a natural outgrowth of the past few years' contact with the children, according to Miss M. Philomene Hagan, executive head of The San Francisco Playground Commission. Miss Hagan was an interested and interesting delegate to the recent Recreation Congress.

Referring to the tennis tournament held last May in the Golden Gate city, Miss Hagan said it was the largest juvenile tournament ever staged in San Francisco. There were 1749 entries. This is an increase of nearly 1,000 over 1921. In 1920 there were 540 entries and in 1919 there were 250. The players are divided into three age groups: twelve years of age, twelve to fourteen and fourteen to sixteen. Exhibition matches are held every Saturday during March and April for

six weeks. The best of these players are then selected for the final tournament.

Every playground in the city has a tennis court. A new interest has been aroused in track and field events of late as well as in tennis games. Recreational activities have increased three fold, says Miss Hagan, within the past two years, "because of the definite organization work carried on individually by our sixty-five trained workers. They personally meet and talk with everyone. An appropriation has just been made by the city for five additional playgrounds of four or five acres each in districts where they are most needed.

"We now have a community house in Jackson Playground. This is in the Potero District, an industrial center. We have converted an old library building into the club center and the young folks are beginning to be interested in dramatics.

"We didn't build our community house first, but grew to it. There was such a demand that we had to get it. We find our most enthusiastic and loyal supporters young people who, a few years ago, played as children on our playgrounds. Our growth may have been slow but it has been a natural growth and has taken deep root in the community. It seems to me the only way to develop a successful playground system is to give it a chance to grow naturally. It will grow!

"The children will make it themselves. I wish everyone could have seen our last May's tennis tournaments, could see the interest and enthusiasm of our sixteen year-old-champions!"

An Important Decision

A very significant decision was reached by the Supreme Court of North Dakota, according to the *Fargo Forum*, which tells of a suit for damages against the Board of Education because an accident occurring on the playground resulted in the death of a child. The decision is so far reaching that we give the article in full.

"School boards in North Dakota cannot be held liable for damages when acting in a governmental capacity, says the supreme court of the state in deciding the case of Mrs. Inga Anderson of Fargo against the Fargo board of education.

"Mrs. Anderson whose son, William Anderson, was killed when struck by a swing on the Agassiz schoolgrounds in Fargo, Dec. 1, 1920, sued the board of education for \$25,000 damages and \$200 extra for doctors' fees and burial expenses. She appealed from an adverse decision

in Cass county district court, and the order of the lower court is affirmed.

"The language of the supreme court, in announcing its decision in this case, is broad and sweeping and sets a precedent for future actions against school boards, according to attorneys who have read it.

"We think the safest rule should be that the school board should be immune from all forms of actions against it," says the decision, and this point is stressed and reiterated.

"The court holds that the board was acting in a government capacity, in providing such playground apparatus, and that it is 'indeed a part of its duties to provide such apparatus.'

"The court holds that even if the board of education knew the apparatus to be dangerous, 'we still do not think the board of education would be liable, if it acted in its governmental capacity'.

"This is the second time that the case has been through the courts and before the supreme court. Action was brought originally by Mrs. Anderson, through her attorney, Taylor Crum, against the City of Fargo on March 22, 1921. Mrs. Anderson lost in the lower court and appealed to the higher court, which held that if there were any grounds for action, they would lie against the board of education, and not against the City of Fargo.

"As a result of this decision, the second case was started this year, this time against the board of education.

"When the case was tried in the lower court the defense entered a demurrer, holding that the complaint did not state sufficient facts to constitute a case. This point is sustained, but the court goes much further and defines the position of the court for such further cases as may occur in the school history of the state.

"It is a well known point of law," says Judge Christianson in a special concurring opinion, signed by a majority of the court, 'that no private action can be initiated against a municipal corporation for the neglect of a public duty imposed upon it by law for the benefit of the public, and from the performance of which the corporation receives no pecuniary profit.'

"Judge Grace, in writing the opinion, holds that the decision of the trial court is proper in that the defendant, in providing such swings, chutes, and apparatus for the school was acting in a governmental capacity, and therefore was not subject to a suit, either in an action for damages or otherwise."

At the Conventions

Conference of Allied Christian Agencies

Washington, D. C., October 17, 18, 1922.

Following ringing addresses upon the need of practical Christian citizenship to face the "imminent peril to our civilization which grows graver day by day through industrial, class, and racial conflict and our terribly torn international relations," certain principles of cooperation and a year's program were agreed upon by the delegates to the Conference of Allied Christian Agencies. With the recognition of "the responsibility resting upon the organized Christian forces of each Community for bringing the life of that community into conformity with the principles and ideals of Jesus," effective cooperation was urged, an annual national conference and an annual local conference planned, and means for developing character-building programs providing Christian citizenship training through recreational and service activities suggested.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Confer

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater New York met at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, December 4, 1922. Judge Hoyt, presiding, called attention to the development of the organization from an organization to help boys and girls who had been before a court to an organization to keep them from getting into court. In the last year, sixty-five percent of the young people were kept from arraignment. Justice Cornelius F. Collins spoke of the tremendous development of juvenile jurisprudence within the last fifty years.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise spoke of the fact that some youths reached stages of maladjustment when they needed, not correction by the state, but direction by friendship. Maladjustment came through wrong relationships of many kinds.

Cain's brother needed no keeper—his brother needed a brother. The query that was put to us was, "Does my brother need a brother?"

The elements of brotherliness, he felt, were

1. Understanding (a knowledge of the environment and conditions)
2. Sympathy (the reaction of the inner life to outward environment).
3. Comradeship.

Today understanding by their elders was owing to the children and this was a thing which made our day very different from the past. We should be comrades not only with our own children, but with all children. As comrades of our children we had infinite patience because we cared and loved. Rabbi Wise said the thing he cared most about in the Big Brother work was that it involved a minimum amount of extrinsic relief and a maximum of intrinsic effort and service. They knew and touched one another's lives. They were organized into unity—the unity of human contact. He suggested that the following poem might almost be used as a slogan for the organization

"No one told me where my soul might be.

I searched for God and God eluded me.

I sought my brother out and found all three,

My God, my soul, my brother."

Mrs. Smith Alford spoke on the subject of Delinquent Parents. She had a delightful southern drawl which added much to her very feminine and very humorous remarks. She said she didn't wonder that there were so many so-called delinquent *children* when you considered their *parents*. If she didn't believe in an all-wise Providence she would say that many parents were just accidents. She wasn't going to talk about wicked parents, but just about ordinary bad parents—the self-indulgent, lazy, weak or over-indulgent ones. She wished the old-fashioned spankin' would come back into style. We had had all kinds of "weeks"—why not have a "Spankin' Week"; not just hit or miss spankin' but careful—prayerful spankin' like her grandmother when she wrote in her diary "Spanked Sally today—God helpin' me, will spank Georgia tomorrow."

The Question Box

QUESTION: Will you kindly let me know the experience of New York and other cities in the United States in the matter of holding dances and using pool tables in social center buildings without paying the license fees required from persons engaged in these occupations for profit? Trouble has developed here between the Municipal License Department and the Social Agencies, the opposition of the authorities being based not only on the fact that some of these social centers make a charge for admission, but also because the existence of these places takes away business from commercial dance halls and pool rooms.

ANSWER: Many of the settlement houses in New York City conduct dances which are open to the public and for which an admission fee is charged. No fee is required by the Bureau of Licenses, however, inasmuch as the dances are considered as one of the activities of the settlements and the money received for admissions is devoted to their general work. One of the settlements, however, rents its hall to outside organizations for dances, and it is, therefore, obliged to pay the customary license fee. We are informed, however, that this is the only settlement in New York which pays a license fee for the holding of dances.

Dances form a part of the school center program in New York City, but attendance is restricted to persons who are enrolled as members in the center. The dances are, therefore, not considered as public dances and under the state law no license fee is required.

In Newark, New Jersey, dances are conducted in the school centers maintained by the Board of Education, and an admission fee is charged but no license is required by the city. Dances for which public tickets are sold are also conducted in such institutions as the Boys' Club of New York but no license fee is required, the assumption being that the dances are one phase of the club's activities and that persons are admitted subject to the approval of the club authorities.

In most of the city dance hall ordinances which we have in our files, there is no specific mention of exemption from license fees of civic, social or philanthropic organizations conducting public dances. In the Mt. Vernon, New York, ordinance, however, it is stated that no license shall

be required for dances "controlled by a religious, benevolent, fraternal or labor organization. . . ." nor of any hall or room owned and controlled by a responsible gymnastic or athletic organization formed in good faith and owning its own gymnasium" The Yonkers, New York, ordinance also exempts churches, public schools, or accredited civic organizations from the necessity of paying a license fee. In two northwestern cities, however, Seattle Washington, and Portland, Oregon, fraternal, charitable, and benevolent organizations are required to pay a license fee for the privilege of conducting dances for which admission is charged. Such organizations, however, are rated under a separate division from the regular commercial dance halls and the license fees are considerably less than for the commercial dance halls.

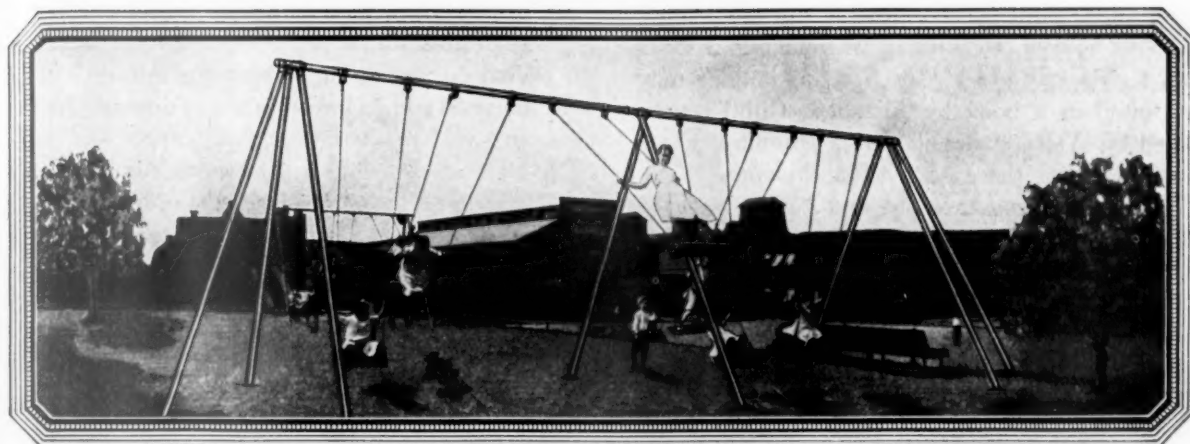
Although we have copies of ordinances governing the regulation of pool and billiard rooms in many cities, we find only one city in which any specific mention is made of exempting organizations from the payment of a license. In Columbus, Ohio, where the applicant for a license to conduct a pool and billiard room is a society or club not organized for profit, no license fee is charged for the use of any table or tables.

May we not have suggestions from those of our readers who may have had this problem to meet?

QUESTION: Have you any plays on hand suitable for grade children for a Saint Valentine's play? If not do you know where we could obtain one? If you could send us one we would be glad to pay you for your book and trouble.

ANSWER: In answer to your letter of recent date we are taking the liberty of sending to you *A Masque of Old Loves* for which there is a charge of 10¢. This delightful little Valentine whimsy introduces through the Bird Spirit and the Spirit of Loving Memory, a series of Valentine tableaux which includes the characters of Pocahontas, Priscilla, John Alden, Betsy Ross and others. It has had several successful productions in New York.

You may be interested in a complete Valentine Book published by the Dramatic Publishing Co., 542 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., which contains drills, recitations, tableaux, shadow pictures and



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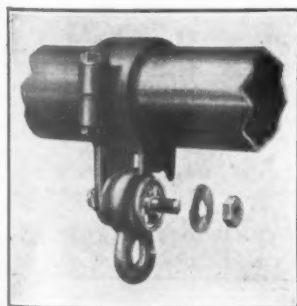
The links are $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, drop forged and made heavier in the center. Special seat brackets prevent tilting. Roller bearing fittings are unconditionally guaranteed for three years—many have given constant service for fifteen years. Rollers and shaft are of hardened steel.

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other suggestions for a Valentine entertainment.

The Changed Valentines introducing 3 boys and 4 girls, and other plays for this holiday may be found in a book by Elizabeth Guptill, published by Walter Baker & Co., 5 Hamilton Place, Boston, Mass., price 35¢. *The Romance of St. Valentine's Day*, with 1 boy and 2 girls, and *The Queen of Hearts*, with 11 boys and 13 girls, are included in the book.

From the Penn Publishing Co., Filbert St., Philadelphia, Pa., may be obtained *The House of the Hearts'* a St. Valentine's Day play in rhyme for children and young people by Jean Ross. The witches, Discord and Hate, seek to disrupt the Land of Hearts. Lady Valentine is distressed because the house where all the Valentines are kept is locked. She appeals to the Knight of Hearts who also is under the spell of the witch. Finally Kindness lifts the spell and happiness once more reigns in the Land of Hearts. 5 girls, 5 boys and extras. Plays about one hour. Price 35¢.

QUESTION: I have commenced a course in community singing here, and we have had our sec-

ond rehearsal with a thousand people out, very great enthusiasm.

What do you do to keep up the interest? That is, when do you go beyond unison singing? At the last lesson I took up Christmas carols, and some sang the parts. I also used some rounds which they are very fond of, and I gave them what I called a vocal combat—*Home Fires and Long, Long Trail* sung together. They liked that. Have you any other songs which combine in the same way? I was told that *Home, Sweet Home* and *Swanee River* would go together, but I cannot get it to go.

If you can give me any details of your own rehearsals which have worked out to your satisfaction, I would greatly appreciate it as I wish to make this chorus different from other community choruses here which sing songs like *Katy* and *My Wild Irish Rose*.

Do you charge a fee for admission to chorus and how do you finance the movement?

I might say I only have one hour sing and then an hour's program given by some of our best artists.

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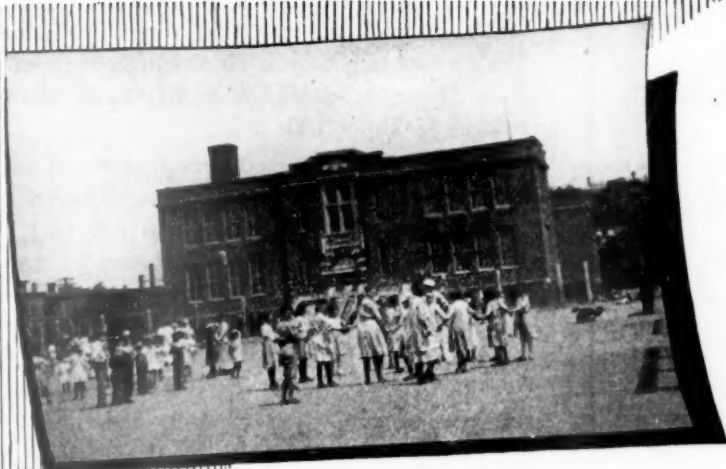
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I have three standard choral societies here this season and all will give concerts at the close.

ANSWER: You ask what may be done to keep up the interest of the audiences. The best answer to that is "variety of programs." This is done first of all by the assistance of different artists—which you are already doing in your auxiliary concert program. A second way is to build programs around some central idea or story, for instance, *Songs That Daddy Used To Sing*. *Musical Memories*, *Echoes*, *the Songs of Other Days*, and *a Musical Voyage*.

When once your unison singing is well established you may inaugurate part singing in which those of the audience will join who can read music. The others may sing the air. This could be done effectively if an audience were provided with copies of the book *Twice 55 Community Songs*.

This is sold at \$13.50 per 100. If the regular attendants at your sings were to buy a copy of this book at your door and bring it with them to each meeting they could then sing the parts at will. Others who did not wish to do part singing

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Address the Dean

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could utilize our own community song leaflet which contains many of the songs in *Twice 55*. We are sending to you an announcement of *100 Best Songs*, a somewhat similar book which is sold at \$7.00 per 100.

You say you have used some rounds. You will find the following rounds in *Twice 55*: Are You Sleeping; the Bell Doth Toll; Early to Bed; Ho! Every Sleeper Waken; Lovely Evening; Merrily, Merrily; Row Your Boat; Scotland's Burning; Three Blind Mice. A large number of other rounds are included in the new book of *Twice 55* shortly to be issued. By the way, these books, with the exception of our song leaflet, are to be purchased direct from the publishers.

You ask what songs are suitable for a vocal combat, in addition to *Home Fires* and *Long, Long Trail*. In war time we used *Tipperary* and *When You Wore a Tulip*. The words of the latter song are to be found following *Tipperary* on our American Legion song sheet—numbers 28 and 29. I have never heard of *Home, Sweet Home* and *Swanee River* as being sung together. However, there is an excellent arrangement of Dvorak's *Humoresque* with *Swanee River*. The Victor Talking Machine Company has a record of this by Zimbalist and Alma Gluck. It is record 87514, price \$1.50. Excellent words for the *Humoresque* are found in an edition for chorus arranged by Charles Gilbert Spross and published by the John Church Company, 318 West 46th Street, New York City.

There is no reason why a fee should not be charged to the members of such a chorus. This could either be an annual membership fee or an assessment to cover the purchase of music and other materials. It might be wise to have both, simply charging each member for the music as it was purchased. As to financing the movement, you might borrow the idea of the Y. M. C. A. in Springfield, Massachusetts, as applied to its Sunday afternoon concerts in the Municipal Auditorium. A fee of \$3.00 per year is charged for membership in these concerts. That entitled the members to sit in special reserved seats for each concert. The general public is admitted free. A collection is taken up during each performance. The contributing membership is also utilized for the summer concerts of the Goldman Band in New York City. Each person contributing \$5.00 received a ticket admitting him to the reserved seat enclosure.

Articles Dealing with Recreation in Recent Magazines

- The American City* December 1922
Whiting's Memorial Building
Flint's Skating Rink
Klamath Falls Playground Financed by Chamber of Commerce
Outdoor Winter Sports in Minneapolis
A picturesque Recreation Park for Portsmouth, Va.
- Better Times* December 1922
Brooklyn Federation of Community Centers
- Child Welfare Journal* December 1922
What Play Did for a "Tough School" by Nellie Ballou

Physical Fitness for America

(Continued from page 527)

where in this physical training and playground movement. In Birmingham, Alabama, I was glad to find play a part of a regular school session, one set of children going out to the playground at a time, and the playground used throughout the entire day with leadership all the time. In Texas, though an undeveloped state, much is being done, and I found the people ready and enthusiastic if only they knew what to do and how to do it. I found a playground association getting in its work and especially in one of the places where I went a newspaper man asked me if I believed in playgrounds. Yes, I told him, our National Congress of Mothers had just given its whole interest to the playground movement in one locality because it was the one movement that was under way there at that time. Throughout California and Oregon, our associations are also talking about playgrounds. We want all we can possibly get for the best good of the children. In Idaho military education was voted down although there was the best form of it right there in Boise. I want to speak of the wonderful playground demonstration I saw in Tacoma, Washington. I have pictures here of the sixteen to eighteen thousand children who came, and of the twenty thousand in the audience, when the fathers and mothers and indeed the whole of Tacoma came together for a gala day. The children gave a demonstration of what it means to have a splendid playground, and a great stadium devoted to this purpose.

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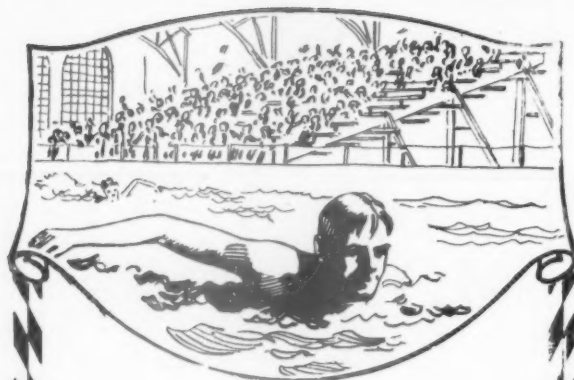
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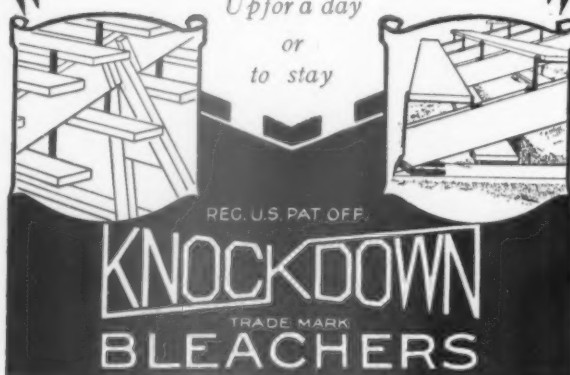
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Physical Fitness for America

(Continued from page 530)

bill will be pressed in the coming short session of Congress which is likely to be called shortly after the November elections. You people who are here and are captains of hosts of others ought not only to show positive interest in this, but you ought to go out and control a multitude who will petition your congressmen and Executive until the whole federal government realizes that there is in this Republic a group of men and women who are patriotic enough and earnest enough to fight for the right things for the childhood of America.

Physical Fitness for America

(Continued from page 531)

day of the week, day after day, hour after hour, the training you put in on the playground, in the gymnasium, those things count. Your finger marks remain as the years go by. What you are doing now will have its effect a thousand years from now. When you are discouraged, remember this; that your work is a thing of permanence. The Chinese have a proverb "If you would have your words last a thousand years carve them upon marble. If you would have your deeds last forever, carve them upon the heart of a child."

Parks and Playgrounds

III.

(Continued from page 547)

and spending money. They can be stated and interpreted for general use only by some one who knows the local circumstances, and who knows the general subject well enough so that he can watch for omissions and ambiguities and peculiarities of statement which would spoil any use of them elsewhere.

I suggest, then, that our Board of Governors make it the special business of a number of people to cooperate in this way and also to get some of these figures relating especially to parks, each man for some park or parks which he personally knows, in accordance with a unified scheme of statement, perhaps according to some such outline as I have used, perhaps according to some other. A year hence a committee study of this information might give us a *real* paper on the subject.

What Neighborhood Work Means to Wilmington

(Continued from page 551)

other neighborhoods. Little by little demands came into the office for a similar organization in other sections of the city so that where in the first year there were two Christmas trees, a year later there were seventeen Christmas Trees. Washington's Birthday, Arbor Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day had served to rally the neighbors in the fifteen districts during the year. These associations now send two representatives to a monthly meeting of what is called the Inter-Neighborhood Council, the chairman of which is a member of the board of directors of Community Service.

The neighborhood association is at once the approach and the tie of the playground to the home. It is the distributing center for leisure time propaganda; the recruiting station for enlistment of neighborhood service; the source of athletic, dramatic, and musical talent; and a training school for citizenship through the service of its members as officers and committee men.

Neighborhood Organization in Utica

(Continued from page 553)

successful center now is one where we had only three people out the first night. We have then explained the purpose and possibilities of community organization, and left it to them whether they wanted it or not. In all cases they have decided unanimously in favor of it and have started the organization by appointing a committee to arrange an evening program when we would invite the whole community. There we appointed a nominating committee and they arranged the second week's program, and then we had a report of the nominating committee and elected permanent officers for the ensuing year. Without exception we have got the best people in the community by using that scheme. The officers we elected were a president and two vice-presidents, the president always a man and the first vice-president a woman. We have felt there was danger of its being looked upon as a women's organization if we had a woman at the head, so we have been very careful to get men to attend

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the meetings and to have a man as president. We had the usual other officers, such as chairman of the reception committee, a chairman of the entertainment committee, and as the organization developed we added other committees. The duties of each we discussed with them. We attempted no constitution for a time. I might say that our education of the group was pretty largely a personal proposition, as it has got to be, in our opinion, if we are to build a lasting movement. The second year we added an educational committee,

a music committee, a community improvement committee. The first put on an educational program for one in every four meetings of the center. The music committee developed community music and decided to employ a trained music leader for the city, all the centers employing the same man. The music committee held a community music festival,—the first annual community spring festival, with a trained chorus from the various centers, and also with community singing.

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Book Reviews

THE SETTLEMENT HORIZON. By Robert A. Woods and Albert J. Kennedy. Published by the Russell Sage Foundation, 130 East 22nd Street, New York City. Price, \$3.00 net

The result of many years of study by two men who have had much personal experience in settlement work, Mr. Woods having completed thirty years' service at the South End House, and Mr. Kennedy, fifteen years. This book describes in a very readable way the beginnings and history of the settlement movement. The lives and personalities of the early leaders are made real within its pages. The experiences of many settlement workers over the country are given and the book becomes a fund of information in every field of activity which the settlement has entered. The volume is a real contribution, comprising not only a history but also a practical working handbook of the settlement movement.

AMERICAN SOCIAL WORK IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. By Edward T. Devine and Lilian Brandt. Published by the Frontier Press, 100 West 21st Street, New York City. Price, \$.50

These sixty-two pages may be read in about sixty-two minutes but a much longer time will be taken if this rapid survey of the development of social work in America is digested. No two people reviewing the same historical facts regarding social work will interpret alike the growth taking place and the present trend. New workers and old workers alike, however, will profit by thinking through some of the questions raised in this booklet. All will agree that social work has now reached the stage where the interest of the wider public is imperative, where all elements in the community must be given an opportunity to participate, that the promotion of the social welfare is not a task to be monopolized by a small group of professional social workers.

FOLK DANCING AS A POPULAR RECREATION. By Elizabeth Burchenal. Published by G. Schirmer & Co. Price, \$.50

"Folk dancing has great and worthy purposes to serve; it is a pure and fundamental art form, and as such should be preserved and treasured by us as a factor in the development of art in this country. . . . But to my mind, the greatest potential value to us of folk dancing lies in its possibility as a much needed wholesome form of popular recreation. This aspect of the subject (except insofar as it has been applied to children's recreation) has perhaps been least appreciated."

In elaborating on this theme, Miss Burchenal has discussed some of the principles involved in developing folk dances as a form of recreation for children and for adults and has given practical suggestions for leading and for planning programs.

Readers of *THE PLAYGROUND* who may be especially interested in folk dancing as recreation for adults will find additional suggestions in the pamphlet, *Folk Dancing as a Social Recreation for Adults*, prepared by Miss Burchenal and published by the Playground and Recreation Association of America. Price \$.15

THE LITTLE COUNTRY THEATRE. By Alfred G. Arvold. Published by Macmillan Company, New York City. Price, \$2.50

"When the play was presented, the audience sat spell-bound, evidently realizing that two country lads had found hidden life forces in themselves which they never knew they possessed. All they needed, like thousands of others who live in the country and even in

the city, was just a chance to express themselves." This, the closing paragraph of the opening chapter of Professor Arvold's new book describing a play written and prepared by two young men who had known nothing of play writing, expresses, in a word, the purpose of the work which Professor Arvold has been doing since 1914, when the "old, dingy, dull, gray chapel on the second floor of the Administration Building at the North Dakota Agricultural College was remodelled into the Little Country Theatre."

All who have known of the work of Professor Arvold in meeting the need in rural districts of North Dakota for dramatic expression for rural people, have been thrilled by the story of accomplishment on the part of the people themselves. In the Little Country Theatre, Professor Arvold has told with the utmost simplicity and in a way which grips the imagination, of the simple beginning of the work and of the effect upon rural districts of the production of plays and pageants written by the people themselves and wrought out of their own lives.

The facts and information given, lists of plays, and a bibliography make the book of practical value, but it is the understanding and appreciation of country people finding expression in every page which place it on so high a level both as an interpretation of life and as a contribution to dramatic literature.

FATHER AND SON LIBRARY. By Frank H. Cheley, Editor-in-chief. Published by the University Society, Inc., New York City

This pamphlet, the product of the Father and Son League, 44 East 23rd Street, New York City, describes a number of books of practical help to the father in the home "in providing for his boy a sound normal growth and education." The books noted deal with games and home entertainments, handicraft, mechanics, popular science, reading and public speaking, camp, wood craft and nature study, pets, hobbies, and collections, and similar subjects of vital concern to the boy.

The Father and Son League offers to its members a monthly bulletin and helpful correspondence service on all phases of boys' interests and activities.

SOCIAL WORK IN THE CHURCHES. A study in the practice of Fellowship. By Authur E. Holt. The Pilgrim Press

Very well adapted indeed is this booklet for use as a textbook for church discussion groups. It has many practical suggestions, not only for the clergy but for all men and women who are interested in the development of the church as a center of fellowship and a channel of service to the community. It has much to contribute to the knowledge of the facts of social and industrial life which must be confronted.

On the subject of recreation, the booklet has the following to say: "One of the great reasons why the church should be interested in play is that the common people learn some of their finest lessons in democracy and fair dealing in their associations on the playground. In thousands of communities and neighborhoods, however, the basement of the church building or its parish house could easily be made into a center for supervised recreation life."

ALL-THE-YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Published by the Christian Board of Publication, 2704-14 Pine Street, St. Louis, Mo.

A very helpful book for church workers containing an outline of a year's program for young people which will provide expression along physical, intellectual, social, and service lines. The programs are arranged according to months, and much emphasis is laid on such recreational and social events as Hallowe'en, Valentine's Day, and Washington's Birthday, which are described in detail.

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DRAMA IN RELIGIOUS SERVICE. By Martha Candler.
Published by Century Company

This practical book on church drama should fill a real need. From the conception of the drama as a form of worship, the reader is led to a consideration of forms of religious drama which have been widely used in church extension work during the past few years, such as the dramatized Sunday School or Bible study lesson, the missionary drama, and the religious propaganda play. Chapters follow on the Little Theater Work Shop, play production, settings, lighting, costuming, and the adaptation of church buildings for dramatic production. Of special interest to students of church history are the chapters on the early Christian drama and the precedent of medieval drama. The facts regarding the activities of church boards and various groups in promoting church drama, discussions of a number of important plays and pageants, a list of sources of religious dramatic material, a bibliography, and numerous illustrations help to make the book an unusual contribution to church dramatic literature.

THE CHURCH AT PLAY. By Norman E. Richardson.
Published by the Abingdon Press

Three answers are given by Professor Richardson in his recently published book to the question "What are the reasons for expecting the church of today to be no less interested in its doctrines and sacraments but be increasingly concerned in leisure time activities." 1. Through supervised play activities, it is creating an atmosphere of friendliness in which the people who are prospective church members can more easily achieve real memberships. 2. The amount of surplus time, wealth, and energy is rapidly increasing and needs to be conserved. Aimless or misguided recreation is

morally hazardous. 3. It is largely through the proper use of leisure that the kingdom of God will be realized.

To meet the need of church workers who are called upon to lead in recreational activities, the *CHURCH AT PLAY* has been prepared. And very practical indeed is this manual which not only suggests games and programs for the church but emphasizes the community aspects of recreational leadership and the church's responsibility for the community. Scouting and the Camp Fire Girl Movement receive special mention. To give church leaders something of the background and philosophy of recreation, two chapters are devoted to the nature and meaning of play and to play motives and interests. Chapters on the principles and art of play supervision, on dramatic play in church and Sunday Schools and on activities of various kinds make the book a mine of information not only for church workers but for all community workers in the leisure time field.

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WEST CHICAGO PARK COMMISSIONERS, 1922-1923

"The most important and beneficial activities of the West Park System," states President Wiehe in submitting the report, "are found in the playgrounds department."

Mr. T. J. Smergalski, Superintendent of Recreation Centers, in his report to the Commissioners, shows a very encouraging growth in attendance and activities throughout the system. The music organizations have grown rapidly, the music festival at the municipal park having this year surpassed all previous performances. Among the special activities listed in the report are holiday celebration, outdoor moving pictures, viewed by as many as six thousand people on one evening, skating, swimming, dramatics, participation in a city-wide festival, promotion of a program of inter-park indoor and outdoor sports and athletics, and handicraft activities. Rare photographs, some of them in colors which illustrate the report, make it unusually attractive.

AMERICANIZATION IN DELAWARE (1922-1923) Bulletin of the Service Citizens of Delaware. Volume 4, No. 3

"The story of our year's work," writes Mr. Joseph H. Odell, director of Service Citizens of Delaware, "turns out to be not so much a record of accomplishments to be credited to the Service Citizens Americanization Bureau as a revelation of the amazing capacity of our immigrant residents for a real participation in America's ideals and activities."

To develop and administer a program of Americanization is not, Mr. Odell points out, the function of the Americanization Bureau. Rather does it seek to organize the facilities which the foreign born residents of the state most need in order to participate in the life of the American community and to turn them over to public control as their usefulness has been demonstrated. Thus, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Immigrant Education, and similar educational groups are now conducting many activities initiated by the Bureau. This policy is now making it possible for the Bureau to devote its energy to Americanization Institutes and Teachers' Training, to Home Lands exhibits, to home classes for immigrant women, and to its Trouble Bureau, through which new citizens are aided in securing naturalization papers and in legal difficulties in which they may have become involved.

HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL SERVICE RESOURCES OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY, 1922. Published by the Helen S. Trounstone Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio

Two hundred and sixty-four organizations with a common purpose of human helpfulness are listed in this pamphlet and a brief description of their activities and the names of their officers given.

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A Letter from Helen Keller

I have been asked to write a letter in behalf of the national Playground and Recreation Association of America. This movement has for its object the safeguarding of the health and happiness of the children of the nation. It should, therefore, appeal to the heart, the intelligence and conscience of the country.

One cannot walk through the thoroughfares of our large cities without realizing that they are not safe or otherwise desirable places for children to play in. By right divine the great Out-of-doors belongs to all children. But since we grown-ups have so misplanned our lives that our children are denied their birthright, it becomes an urgent necessity to provide them with wholesome places of recreation. Furthermore, it is our sacred duty to see to it that the playgrounds have as much of sunshine, pure water and sweet air as possible.

Think what sweet emotions the recollections of a happy childhood awaken in our hearts! And how priceless are our treasured memories of joyous play! What a contrast is the picture of our childhood's playtime spent in grassy fields among running brooks, birds and flowers to the play-time of city children dodging trucks, electric-cars and trampling crowds! Truly the happiness of childhood is the just responsibility of the community. The sun can as easily be spared from the earth as joy from the life of a child. Remember, our early years are the formative, impressionable years. Fortunate is the child who grows up in a sane, bright, healthy environment! These sweet influences, like color and perfume in a flower, cling to his soul and remain a part of it forever.

Is it not a disgrace to this great, prosperous, resourceful country that there should be thousands of children growing up under conditions which hinder their normal development, dampen the ardor of youth and quench the fire of aspiration in their young hearts? Thousands of boys and girls—the most precious treasure of the nation—live in crowded tenements where the walls are bare, the furniture cheap and ugly, the food coarse and served in a slovenly manner, wear shabby clothes, play in alleys and gutters, exposed always to soul-destroying influences! Of course all this is wrong. When we consider the myriad available agencies which produce food, clothing, shelter, and make possible the diffusion of knowledge and beauty in the world, it is an affront to human intelligence, an impeachment of civilization that any child should be denied a joyous, free, normal childhood.

Will you join heart and hand with the national Playground and Recreation Association and help wipe out one of the glaring failures of present-day society? Will you not do all you can to supply the children of American cities with proper playgrounds? Do you know of any better investment for your money? Or any higher interest than their health and gladness? Behold what you give transmuted into food and air, to appear again in glad, strong, beautiful young lives! Bear in mind, as you write out your check, that the achievements of the future are locked up within the brains of the children of today. The nature of those achievements will depend largely upon the sort of seed we sow in their hearts now. It is important, therefore, that we cooperate with every agency devoted to the welfare of childhood. Let us then give our money, our hearts and our influence to the noblest of enterprises—fostering the strength and happiness of the young generation. To those who have helped the national Playground and Recreation Association in the establishment and maintenance of municipal playgrounds, every lover of children is thankful. For those who have been indifferent, we have only the hope that their feet may yet find the right path.

With cordial greetings and best wishes for success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HELEN KELLER.